

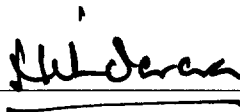
Growing the Club

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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Abstract

For years, Ball State University had a soccer club and once, even had a varsity team. Upon my arrival at Ball State, the club ceased to exist. My thesis project chronicles the formation of the club, specifically my efforts and times with the club as well as the progression of my role within Ball State University Soccer Club. Written from the author's viewpoint, it both documents my experiences and engages in a dialogue with the reader – offering advice from time to time.

Acknowledgements

I owe a great deal of thanks to Nihal Perera, both the soccer club and my thesis advisor, as well as my friend. Without his guidance and signature, this process would not have been as smooth and perhaps would not have even taken place. He reminded me that other people had to read this too.

Thanks to Marc Acton and Colin Cassidy, suppliers of photographs to the thesis.

A great deal of thanks also goes to the fans – family and friends – who supported us. The fact that people cared was heartening.

For the lads...

FOREWORD

This subject matter is not only dear to me, but relevant to you. The formation and history of Ball State University Soccer Club is important to any stakeholder in my University education and this thesis allows them insight into what I have done with the majority of my time. Furthermore, football is the most important sport in the world; to not have some outlet for it at Ball State was a crime. But even if these things do not interest you, perhaps you are interested in how a student organization is established, and, right or wrong, this paper tells you how I did it.

Before starting in on this, there are some things you must know.

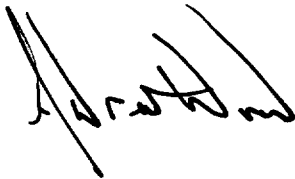
When I say football, I mean football. Association Football. Most people in the United States call it soccer, but its proper name is football, and, as such, that is what I call it. And when I say American football, I mean Americans playing football, though that is not as much an issue here. I call that sport gridiron, if I am being polite. When it comes to football, I am a traditionalist and use a lot of cliché terms and phrases, which means they are from England, where football is too well documented not have a pedestrian aspect. As a result, the thesis has the dichotomy of being both factual account and dialogue with the reader.

I have attempted to record all the facts as accurately as possible, but it is impossible to completely abrogate my own personal view from them. As a result, you must understand that I am *never wrong*, I simply have a different viewpoint.

Throughout, I will be using nicknames; it is endemic of sport and something I personally enjoy doing. It is almost awkward to use the person's proper name. Mike Selinger, after playing alongside me for a year and a half, had to ask me my first name because so few people refer to me as Andrew. I'm Wood. Appendix A is a roster of the people who played for Ball State University during my time; a list of nicknames accompanies the roster and should alleviate any confusion.

Also, the dates used are reference points. Gaps in dates usually will reflect either: a) a period of inactivity, b) time spent doing the same thing repeatedly, or c) waiting and wading through bureaucracy and paperwork. Much of club life is based on waiting; patience can be the best of qualities.

Finally, while this is meant to be a guide to club life at Ball State, if you approach it with a wider view, it can be seen as having suggestions for living, and, as such, should be completely disregarded. After all, how could someone of such youth claim he knows anything? Also, your experiences are certain to be different. No worries. After you go through it you will be able to look back on this and say, "ah, that's what he meant," and then you too, despite your youth will understand that you are now able to dispense advice.



2.October.2000

It doesn't matter how the idea gets in your head, but once you start, your club becomes an all-encompassing passion. It will permeate all aspects of your life almost to the point where you must cut yourself off before you lose touch with all other aspects of the world. There is also the danger that you will become the club and the club will die when you leave. In the end, it is like most everything else in life about which you care: there is impetus, action, toil, reward, and parting.

For me, that idea, the one of starting Ball State University Soccer Club, began in England. I was spending a semester studying abroad at Keele University. I played football nearly every day, but more importantly, I got called up to play with the Keele second squad a number of times. Not only did this whet my appetite for competitive football, but also it gave me a view of how students ran a club, as students ran the Keele squad.

Upon returning to the United States, I began coaching for my high school, Muncie Central, for the third year. I loved coaching; I still do, but I wanted to be coached. I wanted to play again. The idea was there.

I mentioned it to some people I knew, the first being a freshman, Jack Maxwell. I told him I was thinking of forming a club and wanted him to be my vice-captain. He related the he felt it was a wonderful idea and was very enthusiastic... also that he was leaving for France next semester.

In the following month I began the process of forming the club. I knew Ball State had athletic clubs (freshman year I had toyed with the idea of joining the Badminton Club) and even used to have a football club. The history of the club as I know is as follows:

Ball State had a varsity team with a coach, funding, and everything that being a varsity sport entails. From what former players told me, Title IX effectively relegated that team to a club sport, a form in which it existed until the year before I enrolled. My freshman year I asked someone in a Ball State Soccer shirt about the club. He told me the upperclassmen were too busy to run it and the underclassmen didn't know how. I was out of luck. In the final years of the club it was apparently run by fraternity men, and was rather disorganized, or, as referee Myron Echelbarger said, "I heard they had beer in their water jugs." They missed league matches and, when they did actually play, were undisciplined, going so far as to assault referees and the other team. That information could be inaccurate or exaggerated (my guess is the latter), but it was all I had.

Efforts had to be made to build the club from the ground up. My first action was to contact the Recreation Department and ask them about getting a club in order. They told me to contact the National Intercollegiate Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA). I did just that. NIRSA told me to contact the Midwest Alliance Soccer Conference (MWASC). I did that too. The director of the Conference, Eric Szutl, told me that once I got a club together there was a scheduling meeting in the spring where other universities voted on whether or not to admit new clubs. If the answer were positive, we would sort out fixtures for the season in the autumn at the meeting. If not, well... the vote was positive, so we won't worry about it.

I am not certain if this is the way most clubs work. We were lucky; the MWASC is highly regarded nationally and is rather organized. I had a few worries about being admitted since Eric had told me of some of the infamous behavior of Ball State in years past, but I figured that we would be able to pay the league fee and they would at least let us in for that alone.

Back at Ball State, things were a bit more complicated. My first directive was to go to the office of Student Organizations. They gave me a packet of forms to complete. I also had to get an account for the club (we'll talk about monies later). I went to bursar's office. They sent me to one accounting office, who told me to go to the bursar's office and, revising that, after I explained I had already been there, sent me to a different accounting office.

They were helpful and pleasant and gave me another packet of papers to complete. You'll find that in starting out, you fill out a lot of papers. See Appendix B to get an idea of what a mess it can all be. Despite having completed them all, my fledgling club was not yet off the ground. It was necessary to find a faculty advisor.

In my work with other organizations on Ball State's campus, I knew a faculty advisor could be invaluable. Their experience and connections often untangle difficulties and open new avenues of possibility. However, I wasn't looking for that just yet. I wanted someone who would encourage me in what I was doing in a hands-off manner. I was confident I could do it without an almighty mess.

When forming your organization, faculty advisor could be a very important decision. Conversely, he may not be involved at all and it will not have mattered in the least. There are not any strict rules or guidelines when making the decision; I wanted a professor with whom I was comfortable and who got along with his students well. That would encourage easy dialogue and, in my opinion would facilitate exchange of ideas or requests. I had two choices in mind, Srinivasan Sundaram and Nihal Perera. I knew Sundaram beforehand when I coached Muncie Central and he coached at Burriss High School. Nihal and I had played football matches together for some time as well. Both professors had had me in lectures.

The problem with choosing faculty who is affable and popular among students is that they are generally good people, which means they often do a lot for others. The fact is, I felt guilty about imposing on their time even further, but I figured I wouldn't be making huge demands of their time since I would be taking all the responsibility for organizing the club on my shoulders.

I asked Nihal first, and he agreed, but informed me that he would soon be leaving the country. Not to be dissuaded, I figured a way around it all. My neighbor, Bob Mattax was a graduate assistant and thus technically able to be a faculty advisor. Bob was an ideal solution. If I needed anything he was next door and I knew he was too busy to scrutinize anything I did. Effectively, I had free reign and a rubber stamp on any documents I needed signed. When Nihal got back most of the paper work should be finished and Bob's signature would be unnecessary. Lovely!

After all this was in order, I had to go back to the office of Student Organizations and turn in the documents, which I did. They told me I needed to write a constitution (Appendix C) and gave me a sample one from which to work. My aim was to give the president nearly absolute power, the drawback being that the president had to do all the work, which I planned on doing anyway. But, as I wrote to a friend, "I do not intend to be club president, I will be club *dictator*." In the end, we don't really follow the constitution. The club is manageable enough due to its size that controls and regulations aren't all that necessary. If your organization becomes somewhat larger, you will certainly need to adhere to some kind codified system, but I find things work best if they are flexible and officers exercise common sense. It really isn't all that difficult.

14.January.2001

At this point, the club was rolling. I reserved a room and we had our first meeting where I had people sign their name, email address, and telephone number on a piece of paper. Then I began telling them about the club, our league, practices, money, administration... all things they would be interested in hearing; all the things I wanted to say. I was confident that everyone knew when and where training was and what would be expected when they joined the club. I even got a youngster named Jeremy Moore to volunteer as Vice President.

Once you get the initial paperwork out of the way, you would expect things to go smoothly. That isn't the case at all; it will be a bumpy ride and there is a learning curve. You cannot expect anything different. Regardless of the amount of advice or guidance anyone, whether a peer, a faculty advisor, or even a paper, gives you, there are some things you are going to learn on your own, and it won't be until you make the same mistakes everyone else makes that you truly appreciate the advice you have been given. I suppose the

best thing you can do with the advice is try to remember it, synthesize it, and recognize in what situations it is useful. Then it may not go to waste.

We had our first practice on a Sunday after Christmas break had ended. I was not displeased with the overall turnout and quality. A lot of the people I had recruited simply by word of mouth. I would see someone wearing a football shirt and would tell him about the club. Oftentimes, I would have handbills with my phone number and club information. For the club, I also recruited at the intramural games on campus. Recruiting is an area where your faculty advisor may be useful. They may know where you should flyer or loiter and find people who would have an interest in your organization. Additionally, they know other faculty members who can spread the word to their students. Word of mouth can help spread news of your organization very quickly.

I had established a club email account, which was a simple process of filling out yet another form (Appendix A) because I realized that I didn't want emails about the club cluttering my personal email account. I highly recommend this.

Whilst on the subject of email, I should mention that it is a blessing and a curse. It's great in that you can reach a large number of people in one fell swoop if you have an email list, which you should. However, it won't reach them if they don't check their email account. Also, if you have people sign up on a sheet giving their email account, make certain they do it legibly, or you will have twenty incorrect email addresses and twenty non-deliverable messages in your account.

24.January.2001

The club became my identity. Walking down the streets and halls on Ball State's campus, I would often hear, "Wood!" and turn to find it was someone I had met through football. Beyond that, it had turned into people saying, "hey, it the soccer dude" or "whoa, the soccer guy, hey." Doing work for the club consumed me. This may happen to you. You may find yourself devoting more time and energy to that than your university work. I honestly can't tell you to try and balance your club and studies... for me, football was much more important.

I began contacting alumni. When I started the club, this was key for me. Not only did I want to keep a sense of history, but also I wanted to see how things actually were run in the past. Likewise, alumni could be a great source of money.

Money. Money is important; I don't care what people say. You need some bit of money to get things going in your organization. Moreover, the more professional you want to look, the more money you need, and when you have money, you must have some way of keeping track of it. We had an account with Ball State. I used it once – it was a royal pain. I don't recommend bank accounts; you may have tax issues, even though you are a non-profit organization. Besides, the interest you accrue isn't worth it. Beyond that, Ball State Recreation Department had a foundation account (essentially like a holding service) and then another account for money they allocated to us. From what I have been able to discern, the foundation account was more or less money that was donated to the club. It was the club's money, but the Rec. Department was custodian of it. Getting money out of those accounts was always a chore. You had to put in requests for money days (weeks, even) before it was needed. Or, to be reimbursed, you had to keep your receipts, which should not be too great a problem, but if you are on a road trip with your organization, it is a hassle that is preferably avoided.

Allocations were always a bit ridiculous at Ball State. First, the Rec. Department would only allocate money to clubs that had existed for at least a year, so in the crucial first year, we went begging. Then, the money was allocated, but it had to specifically be used for what they wanted, as if they knew what was best for your club since they dealt with it on a day-to-day basis and you did not. Finally, allocated money took ages to use. Allocated money was more complicated than money in a foundation account. It sometimes took nearly two months to get an order sent in, and on top of that, they could change the order without letting you know. The Rec. Department and I never got along all that well.

I have always maintained that they have tried to keep us, as a club, down by canceling our practices, making it harder to get our money, and inundating us with paperwork (see Appendix B). I never felt that I was treated as an adult. Moreover, they should have been bending over backwards to help me and to help my club. After all, I had gone to the trouble to form this club and provide another outlet for the students of Ball State, but I was seen as an annoyance. The Rec. Department higher-ups were never in their offices or at their phones, and would never provide sufficient answers to any of my queries. The Rec. Department and I never got on all that well.

But in terms of money, if you get any cash, keep it in an envelope. It is much more useful and easy to track. Once you use it, it's gone. Also, you will have to spend some of your own money. It will happen. You cannot avoid this. Perhaps you have to pay extra when not enough people show up, or perhaps you front the money on a large order of shirts, but the shirts do not sell. Right now, the club owes me \$250, and I may never get it back. I am not bitter about this; I have just accepted it.

The most obvious way of raising money is collecting dues. I started this in the winter. It is tough to organize and keep track of who has paid, and it can be difficult to put down your foot and say, "no pay, no play. Off with you," especially when you are trying to grow your numbers. Have people contribute a small amount (ours began at \$3) and you will be on your way, at least a little.

My fundraising idea was ingenious. Not only did I have club dues, but also I was taking orders for club shirts I was to get printed. For alumni, I told them they could get a shirt for free if they donated 25 dollars. Brilliant. Everybody was into the idea, as was I. The emblem I had created was widely accepted as beautiful. In fact, the only people who did not appreciate the quality of it were lawyers. Apparently the chevron and football on Beneficence' shield made for copyright infringement. I blame myself for this fiasco.

The problem all started when I tried to avoid paying tax on the shirt orders. It made sense at the time; we are a non-profit organization and should not have to pay a sales tax. However, to do this I had to make the purchase through Rec. Department and in doing so, had to get the logo approved. Although the alterations to Beneficence were done with class and dignity and without maliciousness, we were still breaking the law. Oh, we criminals at Ball State University Soccer Club.

The result was manifold. The biggest was that I felt

absolutely awful for promising to deliver shirts that I now could not. The second was that the logo had to be changed. I had gotten regulations regarding copyright infringement (a binder, no joke, too big to be included in an appendix) and had given them to two architects who were on the club. Hey, they were architects and were creative – certainly they could come up with a vibrant new logo. I wanted it a week before spring break began, which was plenty of time. I got it the day the break started. On top of that, the logo was wrong. That is, illegal. It now occurs to me that they never looked at the information I gave them because the infringement on copyrights was ten times worse than what I had done. So as I left for England on spring break I was unable to do anything about the shirts or logos and they would be waiting for me upon my return.

On top of that, Jeremy Moore, my vice president was headed to Purdue for the MWASC scheduling meeting. I gave him one imperative: do not schedule any matches for homecoming. I wanted to host an alumni game. When I got back from break, we had all our matches for next season scheduled, which included a fixture against Purdue on the 23rd of September, homecoming.

What did I learn from all this? Don't get other people's help. They'll just muck up everything because they are more incompetent than you are.

Which isn't necessarily true. I appreciated the help, but they were just wrong. Perhaps I chose the wrong people to assist me. Regardless, I could not fix the problem with the schedule, but I had to come up with



Original Chevron Shield

something for the shirts. I whipped up a logo, of which I was quite proud. It was the most traditional idea presented, and, as you know, I am a traditionalist. Nobody else liked it. To this day, no one has ever said they liked it besides me. But at least it was legal.

I got the design into the Rec. Department; we should have our shirts printed within two weeks, tax-free. I tell you it took two months to get it all finished, partly because of dallying on the printers' side, but mostly because Rec. Department dragged their collective feet in getting in the order.

When the shirts did arrive, the Rec. Department had the box stashed in their office. I came in to get it, but one of the lackeys said that the two heads of the department wanted to see me before I could take the shirts, but they weren't there. No, said I. I took the box. In my mind, they were stealing what was rightfully mine. The money for the shirts was ours anyway; it was not allocated. They had no right.

The next day I got called in to the office to be reprimanded.

Normally, it is in my nature to be diplomatic and contrite in order to make everything agreeable again. Not this time. I made it clear that my loyalty was to my lads and I was going to serve them. On top of that, I had been waiting for an unacceptable amount of time and, besides, it was my money anyway. I was polite, but the Rec.

Department never liked me since then. What did I care? They never helped, only hindered.

You have to stand up for yourself from time to time. If you are going to get on the bad side of authority, make certain that it is you and not your organization you are pitting against them. It is also best to not contend with some authority that actually does something and is beneficial to your existence. The situation is not always a losing one since eventually you will leave your position as will they. It also helps to be right.



The Second Shield

Spring 2001

BSU SC 4 – 3 Indianapolis United

U of I 6 – 3 BSU SC

Anderson 4 – 0 BSU SC

Dayton 7 – 0 BSU SC

All the hard work paid off and on the 24th of March we had a friendly match against a club team from Indianapolis. More games followed, and with them disappointing results. However, for me, I was less concerned about the results, but rather the fact that we had eleven guys out on the pitch playing. Well, normally it was eleven... we took only ten people to Dayton for some reason. I just chalked all the bad stuff down to being a new club. That is an easy way to pacify your mind. The danger is that many times, administrative and other problems alike are not down to simply being inexperienced, but rather incompetent. You have to guard against that.

The squad was a very ramshackle sort. We had never played together outdoors, nor did many of us know each other. We all got on well, though. I was quite optimistic about our frontline, which consisted of Jason Barisano and Big Duncan French. Big Dunc, a Geordie (the people with the best sense of humor in the world) from Newcastle-on-Tyne was the best of the lot. It was clear that he had played football his whole life and he was magic in front of the goal.

Our midfield was a good proposition as well, and comprised two talents, Mike Selinger and Tom Stephens. Selly was a battler from the start, and would often rub people the wrong way because of his ultra-competitive nature, but he had talent coming out of his pores. Tom was a silky player – invariably likeable,

despite a penchant for mumbling. Tom had a way of controlling our midfield and making everyone around him better.

Rounding out the midfield were BJ Warner and Milos "Miki" Savic. Miki was the second person I ever asked to join the club. He was a competent right-sided player, who played an old-fashioned winger position. BJ Warner possessed one of the hardest shots the club has ever known and was a useful player who never seemed to really find his role on the team. Our midfield lacked one player,

though. Vernon Chin had originally been on the roster, but when he found out he was not starting, he quit to "join a semi-professional team in Seattle." Vernon became a running joke amongst the club.



Spring 2001 top row (l to r): Duncan French, Matt Stebing, Drew Koschman, AJ Bytnar, Milos Savic, Brandon Swart, Niko Ioannou, Tom Stephens, BJ Warner **bottom row:** Cazemba Day, Mike Selinger, Brian Turner, Wood, James Clark, Tyson Stutsman, Jason Barisano

The defense was largely forgettable with only two players returning the next fall. One was I. The other was Brian Turner, a mostly infuriating kid who was most memorable as being Miki's roommate.

All in all, it was a good group of guys. A fair portion of them stuck around the club for the next few semesters and I got to know them well. The spring flew by, but I was simply pleased by the fact that we had our feet on the ground.

27.August.2001

Summer had passed and Ball State was now in session. I had not done a whole lot, well... anything for the club in terms of administrative work over the summer. I don't think that we really suffered from it, though I would recommend at the very least, keeping in touch with key members through email; it would not have to be overly elaborate – simply give them a nudge to think about the club once a month or so.

We had our first tryouts of the fall semester. I was quite pleased with the turnout and overall skill level, but there was something weighing on my mind. I had had my eye open for a potential successor and the autumn season provided a healthy crop of newcomers.

After tryouts were complete, the defense had been completely revamped. At the time, in my mind, the key addition was Mike Reilly. I made him the captain largely based on what I already knew of him. Mike and I had played together at Muncie Central High School. I credit him as being one of the two people who had ever actually coached me. He was certainly committed to the team and knew more about football than most everyone else, but he was never fit enough to really play the crucial defensive role handed him. Also on defense we added Dave Shields who could be a fairly solid player but was hampered by a ruptured calf muscle midway through the season. Evan Krause was our new right back. His balance was never his best suit, nor was his haircut, but he has been a faithful servant of the club and a reliable defender who has grown as a player.

One of the big disappointments was Quinn Staudt. He was a fairly good player for the one match he played with us, but he decided to join a fraternity and left us without his services for the rest of his life.

Perhaps the most important addition in back was 6'5" goalie Mike Perso. From the day he came to tryouts the job was his. It was not just his incredibly tall frame; he had been well coached and was a gifted goalkeeper. As a club, we were incredibly blessed to have that Whiting Scholar on our side, and I rank him as the top keeper in the conference from what I have seen.



Mike Perso

The two new members of the front line were immensely likeable, though not particularly effective. Joe Gray was a shorter lad who used his skills to magically move the ball away from defenders' feet. Matt O'Donnell was a big, tall man who could keep the ball glued to his feet. He always showed remarkably during practice, but seemed to falter during matches. Despite the considerable footskills of our two principle strikers, goalscoring was a problem that first season.

8.September.2001

BSU SC 2 – 4 ISU

It pays off, you know; the hard work. We had our first competitive match in half a decade. It wasn't perfect by any means: we only had one referee (who was late) and it was his first match ever in the center of the field. He had a torrid time, blowing an obvious advantage call and missing a blatant red card. Both would have been in our favor too.

The team never forgave him, though I did – he was my flatmate, after all. Regardless, football is football and most of the animosity should be left on the pitch. Speaking of football, we did actually play a match:

Indiana State drove from Terra Haute to open the season. I won't say that our crowd was intimidating, but we had quite a good turnout. The opposition weren't a big side, but they had a lot of foreign exchange students, many of whom were Oriental. Eastern players in football are generally categorized as having good quickness and close control of the ball. Our team began asking, "why don't we have foreign players,"

now that Big Dunc had moved to Connecticut. The question was asked many times over the span of the season.

We started off ragged and went 0 – 1 down after a “dubious” (as Mike Perso put it) penalty decision, but we weren’t out of it. I won the ball and took off down the right side, beating two men for pace only to square the ball to a streaking Tom Stephens. He did some excellent running off the ball to get into position and sent the ball toward goal. The keeper saved it, but let the ball run free. As I had continued my run, I was there to bundle the rebound into the back of the net. We had equalized. Looking back on it, it seems somewhat fitting that I should get the club’s first goal. It isn’t all that significant, but it is kind of nice for me.

Still, the game wasn’t over. I don’t know how, but they went up 1 – 3. Quinn got one back with a brilliant strike from a difficult angle out wide right. The shot deflected past a hapless ISU keeper. So we went into the half one down.

The second half progressed. Both teams were knackered by the end of it, and we probably had the better of play, but the game ended 2 – 4. Reilly was the classic old style footballer. He arrived late and after the match started smoking and drinking. It’s fairly amusing that the man I made captain had some of the worst habits on the team, but he knew more about the game than anyone else and was always of good humor.

A lot of people may be concerned with the scoreline. They may rue missed opportunities (the major criticism at the end of the match was our forwards) or curse the referee (he thought he heard my mom heckling him), and they could be right, but for me it was much more important that there was any scoreline at all. It’s something of which I am very proud... that we got started and it didn’t have to be perfection. While it’s good to have goals for your club, make certain you don’t get mired by details to the point where the big picture is obscured.

11.September.2001

Mind the date. This is an important fact because the weekend after the terror attacks on the 11th of September we were to go to one of our bigger tournaments of the season. Across the nation, sporting events were being cancelled at every level. We played in the tournament.

It isn’t that we were unsympathetic or placed football about national tragedy... well, I don’t know what it was. The only thing to which I can relate it is the Heysel disaster. Juventus was playing Liverpool and there was a great riot before the match. 39 people were killed, but they played anyway. But even that was because they feared more violence if the match was cancelled.

In a way, we really needed to play – we only had two matches that weekend, but in club sports (or club anything) it is exceedingly difficult to reschedule fixtures. Additionally, I don’t think any of us yet realized the full impact of what had happened. Even now as I write this and re-read it, it seems as though I’m apologizing for playing, but I don’t think that’s it, really. I think the point that needs to be made is that the decision to play wasn’t based on a ‘the club before everything’ attitude, because while I have the arrogance, belief, and action to say that, some things transcend that sentiment. It is important to recognize and acquiesce.

15.September.2001

CMU 5 – 2 BSU SC

The tournament at Grand Valley State University will remain legend in our minds because of its infamy, both on and off the pitch. It was one of the worst footballing moments, yet we remember it most fondly.

As the trip took five hours, we decided to caravan Friday night. We got off to an inauspicious start. First off, we were without Barisano and Niko, who were busy, visiting their parents. Additionally, Mike Gray, our backup keeper, was inundated with work and couldn't make the trip. On top of that, Brad and Quinn couldn't (wouldn't, say I) come because they were too busy rushing their fraternity. Right. As if their frats wouldn't let them off for a weekend to be part of a University team.

I don't like fraternities; I never have. I don't understand what it is they do that can't be done in a different organization or setting that is more welcoming and open. Regardless of how I feel, if at all possible, in your club you should avoid taking on people in the Greek system. Those people are too busy with their paid friends and are unwilling to commit free time to anything else. If you desire reliability and a commitment to your club, avoid these people at all costs. I say this from experience with BSU SC, Golden Key, and a myriad of other organizations.

I was riding in Reilly's van with Dave Shields and Perso. We stopped at the Burger Kind on our way out of Muncie, which took overly long. Then we discovered that one of the tires on the van had a slow leak. We stopped in Lansing, where we got gasoline, filled the tire with air, and parted ways with Selinger and Tom who were staying with people whom they knew at Michigan State University.

We drove on. I was an absolute failure when Fatneck demanded passing music – I was too slow – so he lacked the essential inspiration necessary for high speed and we ended up stuck behind a van.

In time we passed a 37 dollar-a-night Econo Lodge. We kept driving, however, as we were dueling with two girls in a Blazer. That was a mistake. Here I should interject that, guys, if you are driving and looking for an inexpensive place to stay, don't be distracted by girls; money is more important and the girls just drive on anyway. And girls, don't do that.

It took a rather long time to find a place to stay, but we did it – the Amerihost Inn in Coopersville. But Grand Valley State isn't in Coopersville. It's in Allendale, and that's about the only thing there. While we're on it, Grand Valley isn't all that grand, and I'm willing to bet that the same is true about Grand Rapids. Michigan seems to have an over-inflated sense of grandeur, wouldn't you say?

We got to the inn at 12:00 or one or two, I don't remember, but it was late. So late that Odie finagled us 20% off the price. This is a good trick to use if you and your club are short on funds, or if you are very very cheap. Odie and Fatneck went on the obligatory beer run, despite the fact that most weren't drinking. So seven of us piled in a room and settled in for the night. We ended up watching stick fighting on the television, while Joe Gray kept going on about disreputable women. Happily, I was quickly asleep (in my own bed for some off-hand remark regarding a meat market we had passed).



For some reason Odie turned on the air conditioner before falling asleep. That was why our room was so very cold when I awoke the next morning. As I was the first up, I had to make sure that everyone else got up in good time as well. You have to be responsible as president, you know.

After checking out of the Amerihost, we made our way to the GVSU pitches where we met Miki and Turner, Selly, Tom, and BJ, who made his girlfriend stay in the truck.

Matt O'Donnell

Our match on Saturday was against Central Michigan. The pitch was fairly nice, if not a bit short. I walked over to the lads on the touchline. As promised, I brandished homemade shirts for a handful of them. Miki had been going on and on about how he was Serbian, wanted a 'Free Serbia' shirt, and would lift up his jersey to display it in traditional football goal celebration style. He never has shown that shirt.

Irish got a 'Free Ireland' shirt (even though they don't need freeing) because, well, he's Irish. Odie got a 'Free Beer' shirt. Fitting, no? Form fitting, was more like it. Tom wanted a 'Free Muncie' shirt, but I never made it for him. I think he was just having a laugh at me because I frequently proclaim my love for the great town that is Muncie.

Despite the fun and games we quickly grew serious and the match began. The referee was a Spanish bloke who claimed that he had played professionally in Spain. That may well have been the case, but, while he may have been a good player, he was a very poor referee.

We were 2 – 0 down midway through the first half when Tom sent Joe Gray through and Joe halved their lead. That's how the half ended. We were optimistic. At some point during the second half they were awarded a penalty kick. A bad decision, said Fatneck, and he would know, as it was his fault. There was some confusion on their side as to who would take the spot-kick; they subsequently skied it over the bar.

We were playing well at this point. On one of our breaks, Milos was headed up the right wing, cut inside, and sent a lovely cross right in front of Tom. T beat his man and struck the ball sweetly and with some power from 30 yards out. Some spiders must have been rather upset with Tom after that; he put it perfectly into the corner and leveled the scoreline 2 – 2.



Tom Stephens

Following the ensuing kickoff, one of their players dribbled three yards out of bounds over the endline; we all stopped. I know you are supposed to play to the whistle, but this was blatant. Even some Central Michigan players stopped. The referee must have been busy reminiscing of his glory days in professional football and failed to blow the whistle. Unbelievably, they got a goal.

I'm not one to blame the referee for a loss, and I won't. If we had taken our chances we would have won. That being said, that third goal of theirs took a bit of fight out of us. The match ended up 5 – 2 but the scoreline doesn't reflect actual play. We, with our one substitute, battled well, but, once again, poor finishing damned us to the poor result.



A very bright spot of the match was the wing play of Colin Cassidy, a late addition to the roster per Tom Stephens' recommendation. He did quite well and was very good in the air. It seemed that we found our left winger.

Lodging is always an interesting prospect when travelling with a club – especially a club with no money. Since we had no financial support from Ball State, we needed to do everything as inexpensively as possible, so when it came to our second night's accommodations, someone had the brilliant idea of camping. It's inexpensive, it was the end of summer and thusly not too cold, and camping is (reportedly) fun.

Colin Cassidy

After the match we complained, felt surly, and went to a campground. Well, the sign claimed it was a campground, but it appeared to be more of a trailer park to me. I did some coursework while the others slept, save Tom, Odie, and Joe Gray. They were invited to a wedding at the trailer park... erm, camping ground. One would think that three young men coming straight from a football match would be underdressed for a wedding. Not so. From all reports, there was one man there who was going around claiming he was wearing no underpants.

Midway through the wedding Tom must have gotten bored and started throwing rocks at a woodpile making quite a bit of noise. I relate this anecdote because it both amuses me and provides a lesson of sorts. Of course you will tell all the members of your club that they are representing the university and the club and need to act in proper decorum, but you cannot control everything. You shouldn't try to either. The fact is, at least at this level, we are all becoming young men and women – adults, even. People who are involved are going to know how to behave in most situations. You needn't cause yourself undue stress by trying to be a chaperone.

Directly after the wedding, Matt asked the groom (owner of the campground-cum-trailer park) if we could have our money back. We were staying elsewhere. Tom, the premier ladies man of the club, knew some girls of Grand Valley. They were letting us sleep on their floor (while some, Shields, Odie, and Fatneck) set up a tent behind their apartment.

There was a lot of ballyhoo (4 girls, 8 guys) as to the nature of these women. Predictably, nothing happened. You have to keep yourself entertained, I suppose.

We went to the mall to kill some time. Fatneck and Odie took off, I guess to have a beer. The rest of us meandered through the mall. Tom and Perso spent the entire evening telling me what I needed to do to get women. It seems I need to change the way I talk and act in addition to what I say. They even stopped two random girls in the mall to confirm their advice. From my perspective, those girls looked leery of Tom and Perso, but were pleasant before scampering away. To cheer me up, Perso bought me a bagel.

During this time I realized that this was indeed a very good for the team in terms of bonding. Road trips have that effect on you, and I now see them as essential club activities. The increased unity and fellowship far outweighs the monetary cost.

At the end of our mall escapade we made our hostesses a stuffed bear we named Beckham to thank them for letting us take over their home. It never hurts to be polite.

We got back to the apartment. I felt as though someone had beaten me. My ribs ached; I felt cold coming on.

16.September.2001

GVSU 5 – 1 BSU SC

Again, I was the first awake. Back at the field we realized we had no subs at all for this match, and I had a full-on cold. It was a dire match. Our only goal came from BJ who won the ball and had a sweet strike into the upper right-hand corner of the net. It was not the only goal our team scored. Turner saw fit to knock the ball into our net, thus gifting them a goal. It mattered very little. By the end of the first half we were decimated. Beyond the own goal, Turner also handled the ball in the box, giving them a penalty. Then he began mouthing off to the other team. This I could not comprehend. We were getting beaten, severely, and he decided it would be wise to talk trash. I was forced to reprimand him.

Using my unlimited authority I changed the lineup, moving BJ to my defensive midfield position and myself to a more attacking midfield role next to Tom. In my opinion, we were much more dangerous and created more opportunities, which went begging. But that is just my opinion.

I do know for a fact that they twice had to send the ball out of play for me. The first instance was when their number 21 ripped my boot (later I found out he also ripped through my sock and lacerated my toe, which still has not properly healed) with his studs. The second came when number 5 came in studs up on my right knee. I got beaten up that match. But, as we had no subs (if we did, it wouldn't have mattered) I stayed in. Is leadership about being obstinate? Sometimes, I guess.



BJ Warner

Feeling poorly and not caring, I disrobed in the parking lot and changed into fresher clothes. We had all had enough of Michigan and left. Reilly was tired, so halfway home I got the responsibility of driving. I fought hard to stay alert; all ended up well except for the semi-trailer full of laundry detergent that spilled its cargo in front of us. It delayed us substantially, but, as Mike Perso indicated, it smelled great. It is a good thing to look on the bright side of life.

22.September.2001

BSU SC 0 – 5 OSU

It was another home match. Of course we would want to win. The way I see it, the most important thing for a club to do is win at home. No one has the right to come to your house and beat you. We had an obligation to the fans to win... naturally, we let them down.

I wasn't helped by the fact that I think I pulled my quadriceps at practice on Wednesday. My back was nagging me and it hurt, but I could play through it. I wasn't certain I could play through a pulled muscle. Whether it was through will power, stupidity, or the fact that I wasn't as injured as I thought, I played. Not well, mind you; the game was largely uneventful.

It was the first match with me in the center of the midfield for the entire match. Based on our performance in Michigan a week before, I thought it was worth a try. I didn't really get to know what other people thought, because no one ever helped me pick the squad. Oh, sure, they made suggestions, but no one ever sat down and talked tactics. Looking back, I see this as a problem. If you ever form a club (sports or otherwise), it will be difficult to give any kind of control to someone else; the club is your brainchild, your creation. You don't necessarily have to give up control, but pick someone to help you make decisions. Don't just invite anyone to give advice or proffer their opinions; they will give them. Pick someone whom you trust and include them in the decision making. Absolutely you will have the final decision, but it will ease your conscience in the end. Trust me.

We weren't helped by the absence of Brad, Quinn, and Barisano. Fraternities seemed to take them out of even home matches. After the match I made the decision to call up Trent Pell. He showed up to practices and would show up to matches. You can't be afraid to make decisions like this. At this level, most people understand that if they cannot make practices, they will not be playing, and they accept that. But it works both ways. If you like a person and he is spectacular but don't do what is necessary to be involved in the club, you have a difficult decision to make. It isn't always clear cut.

What I remember about this match is Miki sending me through with a lovely ball that I mucked up. I didn't put myself in to score goals, just help create them. Still, it was perhaps a bit ambitious and egotistical of me.

Selly got into it again with the other team. However, this time they were off their game in their return taunts as they mocked him for faking and English accent. It was rather absurd, really. On a purely sporting note, try not to trash talk, it usually ends up sounding ridiculous. For example, Selinger (who else) told the other team to get more funding. It made no sense to them, as they didn't know that we were self-supporting, but even to our club, it sounded stupid. We know what he meant, but good gracious... It makes you shake your head and look towards the heavens wondering why people say such dumb things.

At the end of every home match we have to pick up the field and put things away. After a five – nil defeat and running for an hour-and-a-half you aren't in the mood to do anything. There I was, filthy, disconsolate, picking up other people's garbage, and faced with walking to every corner of the pitch to gather the flags. I asked for a bit of help. None came. Most everyone was off with his girlfriend or parents. What made it worse was that someone mentioned that I was the president. It was only a joking quip, but I exploded yelling about how I would do everything. Oh, the ingratitude. Perhaps I was lacking a sense of humor that afternoon, but what I realized is that most of the people in your club won't comprehend how much work you actually do. Especially if you are forming the club instead of just taking over for someone, they won't know. Remember, you are the club, and will have to sacrifice for it.

I don't advocate you throwing the back of your hand to your forehead and saying, "heavens, dear, I'm spent." No need to be so histrionic or search for sympathy; you need to accept that you will do more than everyone else, at least at first before you learn to let go. It is the nature of being a parent of the club.

23.September.2001

Purdue 7 – 0 BSU SC

We were missing a number of people again for this match. The frustration! Why can't people be as committed to this as I am? Why not? At the beginning of the semester they say they will play, and then they miss matches.

It all makes sense. It is all very logical. It especially followed all reasonable thought when you looked at our record and how our season is going. No one is going to be as committed as you are. Earlier, when I worried about my place on the team, I was questioning my skill. Ridiculous. I proved I was a good enough player, but more importantly, a leader and fervently committed.

If you are fortunate (as I was), you will find someone to succeed you who will be nearly as committed as you were. I surmise that delegation of responsibilities helps give people a sense ownership.

At any rate, we found replacement players. That is, Reilly and I found replacement players. Mike Reilly and I had gone to elementary and high school together and, as such, have a vast network of former players we know. We picked up two of them for the match at Purdue. Matt Reilly was actually a student at Dayton at the time, and Ryan Cool was enrolled at Indiana University. Cool was always a gifted player, and on the day he showed very well, but I don't think any one single player could have stopped our complete and utter breakdown on this day.

29.September.2001

BSU SC 0 – 4 Wright State

Practices had become absurd. We would often play games – no drills, no conditioning or scrimmaging, just silly games. I'll give you an example: one particular day it got so out of hand that Perso commentated the whole time in a faux English accent and celebrated goals by taking off his shorts. What choice did we have really? When only six guys show up to practice, there aren't a lot of options; we might as well have enjoyed ourselves.

We never have many home games, partly because our field is rubbish and partly because it is a big hassle to find referees. This was our last home match of the season. Fans came out to watch, and we thought we had a good chance to win. It was also Wright State's first year in the conference. We came in with high hopes; a handful of the lads rode in the back of my truck to Heath Field singing football songs. The guys suggested that I walk to the field talking in an English accent to intimidate the other team. I didn't and they weren't intimidated – maybe I should have tried it...

Our only real chance came from a Joe Gray strike in the second half. The ironic thing is, it was a lovely volley and it was the one thing that the silly games we had been playing at practice emphasized. We never really could compete with this team. On a breakaway for them, I nearly put in an own goal. Things got so bad that Selinger said, "[expletive] you" to BJ.

Now, I realize he was frustrated and it has always been Selly's nature to be ultra-competitive and combative, but to BJ? BJ was the most mild-mannered player on the team ever. It didn't make sense, it was out of place, and it was very telling as to how we were playing at the time.

Practices had been poor and commitment was low. At this point of the season I became very embarrassed to tell people of our results. I made a new resolution to play like Dennis Wise – a short, hard-tackling midfielder from Wimbledon's 'Crazy Gang.' That is to say, I was now determined to clatter into people. The plan never worked out so well, as I could never bring myself to be a fouling hack, but the resolution made me a more determined and focused player. Sometimes you need a kick in the rear to make you realize what is going on. The trick, for me, at least, was to not get down, but instead use it to make a better day.

6.October.2001

NW 6 – 1 BSU SC
IU 4 – 2 BSU SC

You know things are not going well when a member of the team, a *committed* member suggests that we sack the rest of the season. Tom did just that. We were not winning. We really did not have any chance of winning. Why go on? He wasn't serious when he suggested it, but it lingered in my mind for one reason: we were out of money. We had about one hundred and fifty dollars before the weekend tournament in Bloomington, and that was maybe enough for one match.

For some reason, Selinger was unable to make the tournament, but after Wright State, I did not care. We picked up another player, Paul, Niko's roommate. He lacked a certain... talent. Nice guy, though. We were only supposed to have one match on Saturday and began against Northwestern. It all started well. Joe Gray got a goal after Tom fed him the ball, but it all went downhill after that. Reilly, the Captain, gave up a penalty after blatantly bringing down the ball in the box with his arm. Then Niko, who was sharing a shirt with Paul, got sent off. We didn't know who wasn't allowed to play anymore. The referee just said, "that shirt's not allowed to play." Okay. True to my resolution, I tackled hard this game. Firm but fair, I would say, but we were no match for them.

Directly after the match, the president of Indiana's club came up and said that we were playing them straightaway. Apparently the email I sent him about not being able to *pay* them on Sunday was read as not being able to *play* them on Sunday. After running 90 minutes, we had to put back on our sweaty shirts and sweaty socks and play what was an amalgamation of IU's junior varsity and club teams. That is, we expected them to be outstanding.

The warm up was lackadaisical. Essentially, we tried to hit each other with the balls. Why not? We expected to lose and we were, for the most part, exhausted. On top of that, people started asking me, "can I play at forward?" Giving it only cursory thought, I said, "sure, why not?" The formation was different and we had people playing in completely foreign positions.

There was nothing to lose. After shouting, "walk on" in the huddle we took the field and prepared for ninety more minutes of chasing. Strangely, it didn't turn out that way. Tom was a dervish, knocking people and getting knocked. And it worked. Their team was getting frustrated and a little while into the first half, one of their players was sent off.

We pressed and took the advantage. Miki floated in a ball from the right shoulder. Colin, in the middle of the box dove for the ball and drove it home with his head. We had the lead. Then, against all odds, we doubled it. Niko dropped the ball to BJ outside of the box, who, with his supremely powerful shot, hammered it into the back of the net. Two nil we were up. It didn't last long, though as they started coming back.

Evan Krause was playing out of his mind, but even being a man up, Tom and my hard tackling, and a two goal lead, they took the match 4 – 2. In the end we were happy. It was a moral victory for us and was a great morale boost, given how poorly we had felt and hour and a half earlier. What may have been even sweeter was the fact that we never did pay for the match. Nice, that.



Sauer Krause

We were not staying in a hotel this road trip. Everyone had friends down in Bloomington, so we went to our respective friend's houses and got cleaned up. I was with Tom and Perso at some place where we couldn't figure out how to work the shower. We may as well have gone outside and hosed off, because we essentially ended up acting as cavemen beneath an insubstantial waterfall. It was all very amusing and dangerous. Bathtubs are slippery.

After eating at Mad Mushroom Pizza and watching lions on Animal Planet, Tom and Perso went off to see one of Tom's friend's, who, after all reports were in, turned out to be a nine year old girl. I went to some party where Niko tried to do some freestyle rapping. It was atrocious. I am only sad that I was the only person on the team to hear the bizarrely comical, expletive laden, non-rhyming litany, because, to this day,

no one believes me when I describe how bad it was. It was a good evening in all, though one raises an eyebrow, finding out even more about his teammates, their bad rapping, and their nine year old friends.

7.October.2001

NIU 6 – 2 BSU SC

We had a good evening, but the next day presented a new challenge as we had lost our guest player, Paul. But there was a new recruit on the way by the name of James. James is one of the reasons why guest players are not allowed. He scored both our goals. The first was a wonder-strike off the outside of his left boot across the face of the goal into the upper 90 of the goal. The second goal came about when Colin laid off the ball for him in the center of the park. James took off on a mazy run through the Northern Illinois defense and slotted it past their keeper.

The thing about it is that we were more than just James that day. We created a good deal of opportunities, but the difference was that they finished theirs and we could not do the same.

The referee did not add to the quality of the game. He actually spent a good deal of time jawing at their team about referee credentials and the like. It was a bit surreal and I was stunned that none of their players were sent off, given the things they said to him. But what can you do? It was a situation where things were out of my control. Besides, we were all beaten down and too exhausted to make a proper effort. That is something against which you must guard – burnout. It isn't apathy, but is somewhat similar. People in your organization may be very committed, but if they have done too much in too short a span of time, they will need a break. After all, they aren't getting paid and are most likely doing this in their free time. That has to be taken into consideration.

After the match Perso and Tom piled in my truck bed with Dave Shields in the passenger seat. They bundled up in sleeping bags and as much warm gear they could find, but I do not doubt that they were rather cold in the back of the truck for two hours on the way home.

20.October.2001

BSU SC 0 – 4 BGSU
BSU SC 1 – 6 Toledo
BSU SC 1 – 6 Illinois

At this point in the season, Miki and I had taken up going to the field hockey games. There were a number of reasons for this. First, I had friends on the team, second, girls in skirts, come on, third, heckling is fun (Milos and I nearly got thrown out of a match), and finally, it was a failed attempt to gain fans for our club. We thought there would be some sort of reciprocation of support. There never has been, but I equate that to the girls' season being the same time as ours. Still, I think it is a good idea to sort of partner with another organization for support. At the very least, you get to meet more people, but with any luck, it will be a profitable pairing leading to heightened awareness in the community of what both groups are doing.

Bowling Green was your run of the mill match. For some reason, in the pre-game huddle we had taken to shouting BJ's name. All I really recall from this game was that I was pleased with my performance. That sense was especially heightened when a stray boot caught me somewhat awkwardly and I damaged my Lateral Cruciate Ligament (no joke, I looked it up in an anatomy book).

Afterward we went to a Panera Bakery. I limped around. There were three girls there who, so he says, kept glancing at Tom. Good for him, but in the end, I ended up kind of mooning them. I'm sure it was because I had gone mad with pain...

The match against Toledo began hopefully. We went one down, but got it back quickly when Selinger fed a perfect ball to Miki; it would have been easier to hit than miss, and Miki did just that. We were level. The ball went back and forth, but we ultimately broke down. It was dire. My only solace was that nearing the end of time, we had a set piece at the halfway line. I stepped up to take it, but one of their players would not give me the required ten yards, so I drilled the ball right into his midsection.

Five of us rode back in Dave Shields' sports car. It was rather uncomfortable, but was made that much worse by my ligament injury followed by muscles that began to cramp midway through the ride. The others found it quite amusing how I thrashed about trying to find space to stretch. I suppose it would look rather comical, but at the time it was only painful.

Upon driving back into town, we turned on the radio to hear that Ball State Gridiron, previously without a win in about a decade were beating nationally ranked Toledo during the homecoming game. We stopped at my apartment, which was near the stadium, got in my truck, and drove to the game. Eventually I lost all the guys after they went on the field to celebrate, but that was okay. I ended up driving some guys I did not know home. They were quite under the influence and were yelling out of the back of my truck at all the ladies who responded in a way that only inebriated women can. It was all very educational.

The match against Illinois actually happened on Sunday. It was the only match I couldn't make because I was already committed to speak at Golden Key Honour Society's initiation. Initially we told Illinois that we did not have the money to pay for referees and therefore could not play. Graciously, they offered to pay for us. They needed a 3 – 0 result for some reason. There shouldn't have been any doubt that they could get that off of us.

When the lads got back, I was told two things: Mike Gray was brilliant in goal (that was undisputed) and Tom Stephens curled in a beautiful free kick to deny Illinois the shutout they needed. The free kick is hotly contested to this day. Tom and others claim the ball flew in the net untouched – an amazing goal. Others claim the ball took a deflection off of one of their players.

I cannot say, and that pains me to this day. That I was unable to attend the last match of the season hurts quite a bit, but I can't help but grin when I hear them argue how it went.



Brilliant Mike Gray

Winter 2001-2002

The offseason provides many opportunities for a club such as ours. We could have pretty much disintegrated and not seen each other until the spring season rolled around, but on the other hand, we all got on very well and wanted to hang out together. Colin had taken over as president, Miki the vice president, and Mike Perso was treasurer. I figured the three of them could do the job I did.

They started off well. Every Thursday the team got together at Woodworth, a campus eatery, for fajita night. It wasn't exclusive or mandatory, but we always got about six or eight guys to show up, eat, talk about the club, and look at Woodworth women. Colin came up with a new logo. I was perhaps the only one who preferred the old logo, but it was okay. Besides, not everything can go your way. My Dictatorship had crumbled and I was just a normal citizen again.



The New Logo

Once a week we were scheduled to practice in the Field Sports Building. It was always a struggle to use as much of our allotted time as possible because we could never get the people playing basketball off the courts so that we could start. In the end I would often end up walking through the middle of their games to get them to leave. I am particularly reminded of one time when I was doing this and some girl playing basketball got rather upset and threw the ball at me. Rather than be angry or repentant, I thought it was amusing and proceeded to laugh at her, thus only making her angrier. Also, the girls club team was scheduled to practice at the same time we were. I never understood that. People have always gotten on my case about it, but I've never liked practicing with women. When you are just playing for a laugh, it is fine. But not practice. In my mind it didn't make us better (if anything it made us worse) and was a very big distraction – especially for the younger and single guys. I made this viewpoint known; it was something that never did endear me to the girls.

Apart from that, Selinger and O'Donnell were in lectures with me and I was always proud to sit next to them. It was cool because we were on a team together. We may not have had all the apparel or funding of a varsity sport, but we were still a Ball State team, and that was a bond in which I took great delight.

By the end of February, we were gearing up for spring tryouts. One of our goals was to increase awareness that the club existed, so a great deal of flyering took place. Colin was going all out at president (much to his credit) and had scheduled Ron Rainey, the women's team coach and two alumni to evaluate the players at the tryouts. However, the alumni could not make it and, though Ron Rainey apparently could have he backed out and said he would send an assistant coach in his stead. The assistant coach never showed up.

On tryouts went. At first I was worried about my place on the team, but it was never in doubt. After four days of tryouts ended Colin, Tom, Perso, and I were to sit down to make cuts. I couldn't be there because I was leaving for England during spring break, so I just submitted whom I thought should be on the team. When I got back it seemed they didn't really take my recommendations into account, but I'm not certain it made a big difference; we had a lot of quality newcomers.

The biggest addition was up top. Joe Gray had mononucleosis and could not try out, so we had a whole new crop of strikers. Sammy Volland was a left-sided player with a cannon for a foot. That being said, he could score with both feet. Travis McIntyre was a quiet kid who had as much heart as he did skill. He ran ceaselessly and had a knack for getting into useful positions. Finally there was Adam Miller. I have played with few better forwards than Ads, both here and abroad. He was an athlete – lightning quick and able to leap tall buildings. He could score with his head and feet from both inside the box and out. He was

brilliant. The only knock I have against him was his commitment to the team. He was very involved with the ultimate frisbee team, among other things, which meant he was often away for practices.

The other major additions were on the back line. Brett Esselburn was our new sweeper and did the job rather well. Once described by a club player as, "the dirtiest guy I've ever played with," he was a hard tackling, driven player. In retrospect, he is probably the only guy in the history of the club I would choose in front of me as captain. I have the utmost respect for Ess. The other major addition was Allyn West. A Swedish looking fellow, he played at the defensive midfield position and did so with great aplomb. With Ess sweeping, he had a fair amount of liberty to go forward,

but his work rate was so tremendous that he would always be back defending when called upon.



Spring 2002 top row (l to r): Marc Acton, Bret Wilson, Evan Krause, Tom Stephens, Colin Cassidy, Brooks Holloway, BJ Warner bottom row: Travis McIntyre, Milos Savic, Wood, Mike Perso, Andy Marquis, Allyn West

It should also be noted that this is when Andy Marquis first came out for the team. He is a class player and still a good friend of mine. In the spring he played out on the right wing, replacing Miki. It was, of course, tough on Miki, but Andy was always the type of player you want on the pitch and not the bench.

Colin had originally selected Tom and Perso to be captains. Upon hearing the news, I remember not feeling dismayed or stunned, but rather bemused. It is fairly arrogant of me, but at the time I did not feel that anyone but me could do the job. On top of that, Perso was only a freshman and Tom mumbled quite a bit. More practically, they were both architects, meaning they had more demands on their time. In the end they actually made me captain I kind of feel that I blagged my way into being captain, but I don't care too much because I believe it is right that I was the captain.

24.March.2002

Anderson 0 – 2 BSU SC
Rose Hulman 1 – 2 BSU SC

We had two matches scheduled on the day. The weather had not yet changed from winter to spring. The winds were high, the pitch was somewhat frozen, and it was well cold. Adam Miller scored both of our goals against Anderson. The second was brilliant and indicated just how important the new additions to the squad were. Westy had taken the ball in the center of the pitch and sent a lovely chip over the Anderson defense. Miller, always aware, outpaced their backline and latched onto the ball, finally slotting it past a helpless Anderson keeper.

The defense was much improved as well, despite some unfortunate events. For example, there was some confusion at the back and West ended up cleating Ess and someone planted their foot firmly on my ankle while defending a corner kick. It makes me think that we could have been even better when I recall that Colin was feeling ill and Tom's mind was elsewhere – Tom left to return to Ball State before the second match to watch his pseudo-girlfriend compete in a gymnastics meet. Regardless, you could not fault the team; they came together for that first match.

After it was over, we had time before our next match, so we went to Anderson's poor excuse for a mall. The only thing overly exciting there was our attempt to have the team picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Sadly, there were too many of us to fit in the frame. At least it killed some time before we played Rose Hulman.

Rose Hulman were a big team. I do not mean this in terms of reputation; they were physically big. Rose, being known for its engineering program, provided ample material for us to joke that they were all genetically engineered. They could play, though, and gave us a rough time of it. In fact, Westy, mild-mannered and having a history of never being sent off, was thrown down and put into a headlock during the match. The referee saw fit to send off both players. To this day it has never made sense.

But the rest of the match did make sense. Miller again showed how quality a player he was by putting away a pass by fellow newcomer, Sammy Volland. But all was not well. We were under pressure; both Andy Marquis and Evan had to

clear off the line to keep the game close. Miki, who was playing well and showing improvement since the fall, sealed the victory by putting away a splendid individual effort.

What strikes me now as I write all this is how much my focus had shifted from the administrative aspect to the footballing aspect. With Colin at the helm, I was free to think about kicking a ball rather than bank accounts. That is certainly one of the nicer aspects of giving up your role as president of the organization.



Westy (not in headlock)

30.March.2002

BSU SC 1 – 3 MSU

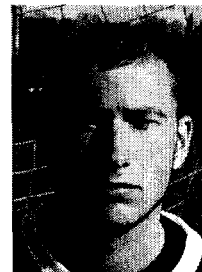
BSU SC 2 – 0 Western Ill.

BSU SC 0 – 2 Vanderbilt

From all the running around in the cold and wind the previous week, I had caught a nice little cold. It did not matter, though, as we had a big tournament scheduled in Southern Illinois this weekend. It was a six-hour drive. We amused ourselves with music, conversation, and a surprisingly decent bout of me freestyling.

It was nice to find us in good spirits, as we had reason to grumble. As a club, we had existed for a year and were now entitled to a bit of money allocated by the Rec. Department. Nearer the beginning of the semester, we submitted our order for new jerseys and were quite excited; they should arrive just before the SIU tournament. Days before the weekend, Colin informed us that Wojo, head of the Rec. Department, took it upon himself to re-order the kits. We could not see any reason to do this, but Wojo tried to console us by saying he would get overnight shipping. Hooray for that. It meant that the new strip would arrive only one week late as opposed to two. The result was that we were forced to go to a local store, buy t-shirts and have numbers printed on the back of them. Classy, that. To top it all off, Miller and Sammy had opted out of the long long weekend, but that was not as much a blow – we had capable replacements in Travis and Bret Wilson.

Eventually, the lot of us arrived in Carbondale, Illinois and found a hotel. Fifteen of us crammed into two rooms and settled in for the night. We talked and joked; some guys phoned their girlfriends. At the end of the night, Travis, who had been overly quiet, was laying in my sleeping bag (I got a bed, it's good to be old) in a corner shouted, "Houdini!" It was the only thing he said all evening and it was hilarious.



Travis McIntyre
Houdini Himself

In the morning we woke and made our way the fields. We began the match, but did not have to go far because Michigan State brought the game to us. Our lone goal was scored by Tom from a penalty that resulted after Travis was clearly taken down in the box. He did well to get that penalty as he was isolated for much of the match after Wilsey had to go off injured. We kept it close, but could not defend set pieces: all their goals came off corner kicks. The first came when Evan got nutmegged. The second and third goals were unfortunate when first, the Perso collected the ball, but it bounced off his arms and they put in the rebound, and second, we he called for it, but was unable to get to

it. At the end of the day I noted to myself that none of the goals they scored were my fault. Immediately I thought, "where is my sense of team?" It astounds me to this day that I could feel that, but it helped me look on the positives of the game and get us ready for the second match of the day.

We had Western Illinois' number from the beginning. The team was clicking from the kick, but they were kicking from the start and Tom was injured in the third minute. He continued to play for stretches during the match, but we all knew his ankle was in a bad way. He even missed a penalty, but it was no matter. Miki had put us in the lead when he put away the ball during a scramble in the box. Selly sealed the victory by putting the finish on a through ball Wilsey had played.

The club attacked well with myself making useful runs and passes. At the end, though, a number of players began suffering from leg cramps. That did not bode well for the third match we were to play that day.

Exhaustion was setting in. It is difficult enough to play two matches in a day; three is murderous. We were chasing the game the whole time. We had our chances, but Vanderbilt had more in them. Disaster struck in the first half when Evan gave away the ball on the right side and they capitalized on the mistake. Ess did his best to keep us motivated, I recall, but it was all too much. I let my mark get away a while later and they put another one past Perso. We were not helped out by the injuries to Wilsey and Tom (who was forced to sit out that match).

That night we were too tired to do any joking. The highlight of the evening was sleep, although some, mostly Tom and Perso, became enamoured with a mangy stray dog they affectionately dubbed, "Saluki." It was a misnomer, certainly, but they did not really know what a Saluki was and would not believe it when they were told. To top it off, they tried to feed the animal a potato. A potato! I thought they were honors students.

31.March.2002

BSU SC 4 – 1 Eastern Ill.
BSU SC 0 – 3 Vanderbilt

Like soldiers going to war, we trudged across the muddy ground, tired and sore. Eastern Illinois seemed lively, despite what was clearly a night out drinking for them. The game got off to a turbulent beginning. Selinger, always combative, got under the skin of one of their players who proceeded to push Selly in the face. I rushed over to break it up (mostly to prevent Selly from retaliating) and the guy pushed me in the face. Their man was sent off. After the game, a number of our players, myself included, recounted how we half-expected him to rush back on and attack us.

Mike got his revenge when Andy Marquis passed him the ball on a counterattack and he put it into the side netting of the goal. We chose our moments to attack well – their

defending grew more and more desperate. They took down Andy in the box and Miki coolly put away the spot kick. Andy, whose ubiquitous presence had been inspiring, notched a goal for himself after he headed in a throw from Brooks Holloway. Brooks was noted for his long throws and little else. Eastern pulled one back, but were never in it and we got a fourth goal when Andy once again turned supplier and fed Wilsey on a breakaway.



Andy Marquis

The game grew contentious as a hobbled Travis added to our injury woes. The final whistle went, but Eastern had not had enough. One of their players approached Selinger, clearly trying to start a fight. Mike Selinger may be a hothead on the pitch, but is not when he is not playing, and after the whistle blows, he stops playing. Eastern were not going to be denied their fight; one of their players took a swing at Selly, making light connection. Bedlam erupted. I did my best to separate everything. There is no place for fighting in football. It should never come to that.

An Eastern player seemed to be observing it all and after all was sorted complimented me on my "good composure." That was a nice feeling. It never hurts to have class. As much as you may feel wronged or

that there is injustice against you or your people, it is always best to defend them, but not in a violent or base way.

After the complete destruction of Eastern Illinois, we were slated to play Vanderbilt again in the semifinals of the tournament. One got the sense that we were defeated even before we began because we were so fatigued. I knew we could not go into the match with that kind of attitude and give any kind of representative showing. The return of Tom, from his ankle injury was encouraging, but would it be enough?

I came up with a counterattacking strategy whereby we would sit back in a defensive shell and pick our moments to attack. It really was the best chance we had given how worn and injured we were. In a last effort to inspire the lads I said, "Behind priests and parents, we're the most important people. We're footballers." Ess smiled and nodded. "I like that," he said. We were ready.

But the match began uneasily and we were quickly down. Perso had some unfortunate distribution; they got a free header, and we were down in the early minutes. From that point on we were again chasing the game. We played with heart, but heart was not enough to win.

The six-hour ride back was less than comfortable, as we were tired and foul smelling. Beyond that, a majority of the people began cramping in the cars. It was no good to writhe around like that in such a tight space, but that is the price you pay to be a footballer.

3.April.2002

I am of half a mind not to include this next bit, but I think it is educational. Miki was having a rough time of things, what with being relegated to a substitute's role and all. He sent out a rather scathing email addressed to the entire team:

I have a couple of things to say to all of you to air out some dirty laundry....

1. Colin, what the [expletive] am I? Am I a vice president, because it seems like Wood took care of that well.
2. Wood, go [expletive] yourself. I still am [expletive]ing stunned by you making the starters yourself with no consultation, and leaving me out of the starting 11 for no [expletive]ing reason. Andy is a hell of a player, and he is a great person, but I shed skin and blood for the team since its existence, and getting snubbed was quite below the belt.
3. I suggest things to do AS A TEAM that need to be done in order to make us a BETTER TEAM. Watching any film of players that are better, stronger, and wiser than us will help us learn. Wood, if you don't like that, go suck a [expletive].
4. If you guys (TEAM) do not want me to suggest anything or bring in a trainer for us, just say so and I'll shut the [expletive] up. But don't promenade around me saying that those ideas are great and then don't do [expletive].
5. I have other ideas for us, but if you want to hear them, ask me, because I'm not sure if I can say them, being that I have no relevance to the team.
6. I sprained my ankle playing Monday night with the girls team, so I will not be at practice on Wednesday. I WILL BE AT PRACTICE ON THURSDAY, so if you want to approach me about what I have said, please do. I hope this finally gets things accomplished.

MIKI

This email came as quite a shock to the entire team, as everything had been fine a week before and, on top of that, most of the arguments he made were inaccurate. I'm not doing this to censure Miki, he apologized and we're all friends. What I want to do is talk about how to handle this. You could go through something like this line for line and pick apart the points, but that does not really accomplish anything. I was going to respond by simply saying, "Watch your language," but decided against that as well. After Miki had cooled down (it took only a day), he realized just what he wrote and apologized. Usually, this should be the case. If the person does not do that, you have to have a discussion with him and try to sort things out. If he is still contrary you could always just kick them out (unless they are right). At the very least, do not let open hostilities fester for too long, it will only cause problems.

27.August.2002

Summer passed uneventfully. Miki and I played together on a team during that time and did rather well. When everyone returned to Ball State for the beginning of the semester, we began recruiting immediately. We actually had three different flyer design types, and they were all over campus.

We did not have as many people to tryouts as we did in the autumn of 2001, but the skill level was perhaps higher. I was quite excited by the prospects of our frontline. Travis could not return, as he had too much work, but Sammy and Ads Miller were back in addition to newcomer, Ben Daniel. Bendy was a fast player who was an average finisher, but he gave us some good depth up top. Perhaps more importantly, we got our first foreigner since Big Dunc. Christopher McLaughlin, or Keager as everyone called him, was an exchange student from Ireland. He also played up front and had surprising pace over short distances. He was sure on the tackle and, despite his small stature, was great in the air. He had a way of getting into ideal positions and getting into the air at just the right time. On top of that, he was a top lad and always good for a laugh.



Kyle Trulen Caleb Caldwell

Tom, Selinger, Andy, and Miki were all back. Andy was set to step into the limelight and make his mark on the team. Also returning was Marc Acton, who had played much in the spring, nor did we expect him to in the autumn, but he stepped up his game and contributed substantially. The biggest newcomers to the midfield were Caleb Caldwell and Kyle Trulen. Caleb was tall and thin but could hold and distribute the ball well. Kyle was a magical player (I always felt he was underused – we had to convert him to forward later on in the season) accurately described as, “fancy, but not too fancy.” He had all the right moves and was confident on the ball.

Ess had graduated leaving only Perso, Allyn West, Evo, and myself in the back. We did not get a whole lot of help through tryouts either. Only one player stood out, Brandon Berkshire. He, like Evan, needed a haircut, and was shaky at the start, but eventually began adapting to the pace of the collegiate game. We sat next to each other during a course we had and I got to know him well. A good guy.



Fall 2002 top row (l to r): Matt O'Donnell, Brandon Berkshire, Kyle Trulen, Colin Cassidy, Andy Marquis, Ross Tanner, Mike Selinger, Evan Krause bottom row: Marc Acton, Wood, Mike Gray, Mike Perso, Allyn West, Milos Savic, Sammy Voland

Perso began making a scouting report of everyone on the team and Westy made a media guide about the club. Was it possible that the guys were starting to get into it as much as I? It seemed infectious, and I was overjoyed, no, proud that my lads were beginning to feel the way I do about the club. Colin tried to get me to describe what the club meant to me for a website he was creating, and I came up with this:

For me, the club is many things. In some ways it is to be my legacy to Ball State, as I formed it. It is an outlet from all the nonsense with which we deal everyday. It is where I always want to be. It is a football club. We play football. It is the simplest of things playing the simplest of games. You could write volumes about it, but it is a football club. That's all, but that's a lot.

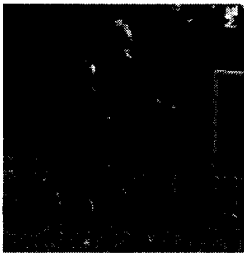
I got the impression that the club was becoming that for more of the guys, and that was rewarding – more so than any line on a resume or any prestige or fame I could garner. I did something that *meant* something, and not just for me...

6. September. 2002

ISU 1 – 3 BSU SC

Colin had been doing the majority of the administrative work (quite brilliantly, I might add), which allowed me certain freedom to focus on the football aspect of the club. Thursday at practice I laid out some tactics and strategies on which I wanted us to focus. Coaching, and all that – it was fun for me. Afterward we went to Colin's apartment to watch an MLS match, eat spaghetti, and bond as a team. Most of the people showed up, and I think it helped.

We went into the match against ISU with the starting eleven not having played together on a full-sized pitch the entire pre-season. Regardless, I felt supremely confident we would emerge victorious. The pitch wasn't the best, but it wasn't rock hard, which was new for us, as it was the summer in Indiana, dictating that ground is supposed to be as a rock. Adding to the novelty was the fact that we were playing under lights.



Selinger (front) in action

For me, the tone was set early, as I went to ground, throwing my body in front of a shot they had directly in front of the goal. The rest of the team had the same desire to scrap and control the game as well. Four minutes into the match, Mike Selinger collected the ball near the left-hand corner of their box and sent a looping shot that evaded their goalkeeper into the net. A wonder-start to the beginning of the match and the season.

Directly after the restart, our Irish recruit, Keager, went up for a ball and landed face down. Later he told us he was given an elbow to the back. He went off the pitch and was to be off it for the rest of the season. He had snapped a clavicle. Odie graciously forfeited the rest of his match to take Keager to the hospital, fortuitously located across the road.

Ten minutes on they equalized after and incredibly well placed shot eluded Perso and dropped in under the bar. There was really no explanation for what happened. Mike was well positioned and their attackers were fairly well marked. That's just the nature of the game, I suppose.

We scrapped on. After half an hour we had just stymied one of their attacks. I was on the right shoulder carrying the ball out of the back when I sensed one of their players coming on. I got rid of the ball, but the man kept coming and executed what was described as, "a samurai kick. He got completely horizontal, man," on my leg. There wasn't much writhing or any profanity on my part, but there was quite a bit of pain and pounding my fist into the ground. Their man was sent off; I played on.

The first half ended 1 – 1, but we felt we had their number, especially with an extra man. I moved Westy to my sweeper position as I was less mobile and would take up a defensive midfield position. On the hour Miki received the ball wide and sent Selinger through on the right side. Mike was up to the task and hit another shot from far out, once again eluding the keeper. We were up.

Soon, they had another man sent off for a reckless foul. Kyle went close, hitting the cross bar, and we controlled the game completely (as you should, up two men). Late in the match, Selly got free in the area, chipped a ball over their keeper to an onrushing Caleb Caldwell who added a security goal. We ended the game 3 – 1 and I limped off the field. It was never the most convincing performance, but we did well for our first time out. They rarely threatened, and never got into any kind of rhythm. Mike Selinger had a blinder and surely deserved man of the match.

The very low point was the loss of Keager for the season. We went to the hospital to see how he was. Naturally he was disappointed, to put it mildly and cleanly, but he was philosophical about it all saying that there was no reason to get angry about it as it had happened and you could not change anything, which is a very pragmatic view that I think holds true for a lot that will go on in a club. You cannot control

everything, and when things happen, you have to live with them and move on. Certainly, you can try to prevent it from happening again, but it doesn't do to dwell on it.

20.September.2002

I wish I could write a scoreline at the top of this page, but I can't. We were scheduled to play Earlham in a friendly on Wednesday, but they phoned hours before the match and said they could not get a squad together. Simply astonishing. That a varsity squad was less organized than our club team spoke wonders for what Colin and I had done.

That fact that we did not have a match was important, but everything surrounding the inactivity was rather something as well. Firstly, and most importantly, Tom began considering whether he should leave the team. This caused a great deal of consternation for me. Not only was Tom an exceptional player, he was a good lad and my friend. Beyond that, he had been with the club from the beginning (he was the third person I asked to join following Jack Maxwell and Milos Savic). I thought I would try and talk him out of leaving.

I figured that I could talk about responsibility and what he would miss and regrets, but I reckoned he would have already thought about all that. Polite blackmail or asking a favor might work better; I asked him to stay for me. Since this was my last semester, I asked him to stay just for that. Afterward he could do whatever, but not now. Not after all I had done, after all we had done for the club.

It didn't work. I think he already made up his mind and he was waiting for someone to tell him that it was okay. Perhaps it was sweetened by the fact that he was forming his own organization and wanted to talk to me about it. (Tashfeen Ahmed, a friend at the University of Chicago who wanted to form a soccer club, also asked me the same thing. It's fun to be inspirational.) On a personal level, that was very rewarding, but it did not help the club at all.

I'm not angry or bitter. You can't be when something like this happens. You have to accept it, support your friends as best you can, and find a way around the dilemma.

Less importantly, Colin found that Adam Miller could not make time for the club. Neither could Ben Daniel. Without any fanfare, without kicking a ball in anger, our much heralded strike force was gone. With the loss of Keager, this meant our attack was looking anæmic; in fact, all we had was Sammy and Odie as well as converting Kyle, a midfielder, to forward. We did have another option, which we entertained. New players. Given how many people had left the team we opened up the roster to new players. Paul Bailey, Joe Gray, and Jonny Noble all came out to some practices, though, somewhat expectedly in hindsight, none had time to join us. Ah well. More playing time for the rest of us. That's how I saw it at the time. Selfish? Optimistic? I was confident we could have a good season with our core of committed players.

Looking at all that, I think I see optimism as something rather helpful for anyone running a club. Perhaps it was just a trait of mine, but everyone should try and foster it. While not discarding pragmatism, it behooves a leader to have a sense of optimism. It does no good tromping about a practice ground or meeting hall with your head down, muttering about how your plans have been bollocks'd up by others. It is actually quite detrimental as people will not believe in what you are doing, which is perhaps the greatest danger of all.

But it wasn't all doom and gloom. We had our good times. I am reminded of the time I was driving Perso and Andy Marquis to practice. Perso was all over my case to get him something to eat, so Andy and I rifled through my kitchen and got him an egg, a slice of bread and an onion. He promptly threw the egg on the asphalt in the car park. He ate the bread. On the way to Heath Field, Andy convinced him to chuck the onion at a jogger on the side of the road, so, Perso, lying prone in the bed of my truck lofted the onion, nearly hitting the man. Immature? Absolutely. Dangerous? Perhaps. Enjoyable? A laugh riot.

Perhaps I let this stuff go on because I needed some light relief. My leg had not healed completely. (I was convinced that what was a severe deadleg was now strained knee ligaments and a pulled thigh muscle.) As a result I was not training, but rather coaching the squad. My initial assessment that I did not have a bruise

was wrong. Westy was the first to see it. I can't describe it, so I'll simply relate a brief anecdote. I showed the bruise to Kyle who said he thought it was just a tanline because the bruise was so extensive. Nice.

It was horrible not playing, but I didn't mind coaching so much. I had done it at Muncie Central for three years, so it was not completely foreign to me.

The biggest problem was that we had not had a match for three weeks. People were getting on each other for little things. It was not good.

Inactivity for a club can be catastrophic. You can't have practices without any matches, just as you cannot have meetings with no overriding goal. Humans get restless. There are other things we could be doing, especially at University.

22.September.2002

U of C 2 – 2 BSU SC

I've never been one to give into superstitions or omens, so when we gathered in the parking lot before travelling to Cincinnati and Andy Marquis was swinging from a tree branch only to have it break, I thought nothing of it, save that it was hilarious. With perspective, I still don't see it as a harbinger of the match, I just see it as another example of how Ands was a goofy kid.

As we approached the ground for the match, we all got very excited. The pitch was green and flat, something to which we were not accustomed. We were to find out the reason it was in such good condition was because it was fake. The surface was not astroturf, but it certainly was not grass. Three quarters of the team were very excited about. I was not pleased; as I mentioned previously, I am a traditionalist, but beyond that, I am obsessed with football, and I have read quotes from professionals who have played on that type of surface and everything I read indicated that they despised it. Perhaps it was simply pretension on my part, but I was not happy.



Andy - a goofy kid

The start of the match was about even – the two weeks of inactivity did us no good, however. They were one goal up after ten minutes when our whole defense (myself included) failed to mark up and clear our lines. No one was pleased. Then our freshman left back made a blunder on one of their corners as their striker sneaked in and made it a two nil game.

The bench at halftime was rancorous. I sat myself out to the side and only listened with one ear, as is my custom. When things settled down a bit, I set to work with a half time motivational speech. It was full of how we weren't playing with heart or as a team and all the usual stuff. I think it was hard, but fair, if not a bit over the top, but it seems to have worked as we came out in the second half with renewed fervor.

We were challenging for balls with much more ardency and the tackles were sure and determined. Westy began pushing up, so I dropped back to a more defensive role. It paid off dividends almost immediately. Westy was challenging for a ball on the right shoulder and deflected it into the path of Sammy Voland who struck surely with his right foot. We were in with a shout. More opportunities followed as Ball State had the better of play for the second half.

There was a bit of a row as I started dictating to the bench whom I wanted in the match. I wanted my best players on, and that meant some people would be forced to forfeit playing time. But, as Mike Perso said, "we're not a pity club. This isn't some u-6 team where everyone gets to play equal amounts of time."

Right or wrong, a leader has to make decisions. It worked too. Freshman Ross Tanner, playing in his first match at this level, took the ball down to the right corner. His cross was perfect as Andy rose majestically to head the ball past the Cincinnati keeper. Well, I'm not sure 'headed' is the right term. It was more like

the ball hit his face and went in, no disrespect to Andy. Regardless, it was a beautiful movement and ten minutes from time we found ourselves even.

The pace picked up a bit and I found myself covering more and more in the back as we pressed for the go-ahead goal and I provided defensive cover. The goal never came, and the game ended in a draw. It was a fair result as no team was really better on the day, but the lads were not happy with the performance. For me, the character shown in the second half was encouraging. It boded well for the rest of the season and showed that this squad had the mettle to come from two goals down to get a result.

As per usual, we went to the bench after the match, and, as per usual, I dropped my shorts to change into something a bit fresher and more comfortable. However, there were actually fans at the Cincinnati match and I proceeded to show my bare buttocks to goal-hero Sammy's mother. Wonderful! I asked if she wanted my phone number.

She didn't.

29.September.2002

BSU SC 3 – 2 CMU
BSU SC 0 – 1 BGSU

As professor TN van Cott once said, "I'm going to be a real bastard." That is how I approached this weekend. After viewing the tapes of our two previous matches I had spent the week being ornery and arrogant in an effort to be in the right mindset for our lone home matches of the season. I was not going to watch another game tape that had me going in with weak challenges while demanding the others start showing some steel.

It worked well for me; I was focused as the game kicked off. The team started off well. We poured on the pressure and eight minutes in Caleb found a streaking Mike Selinger in the box. Selly was screaming for the ball, and thank goodness. Caleb rolled the ball across the box and Selly easily slotted it home. We were up early and looking for more.

We steamed across the halfway line again, winning balls in the air, crunching in on challenges, moving for each other, really putting them under the cosh. It was a beautiful thing. Andy Marquis had the ball on the left wing and was looking to cross it in. Let's say the wind took the ball. The cross-cum-shot completely baffled the Central Michigan keeper who was rooted to the spot. It was never a strike, but it was always a goal and we were up 2 – nil at half.

Central Michigan were not going to roll over; they came out hard in the second half, putting on pressure from the whistle. They nabbed a goal to halve the lead, but we were resolute and stormed down the field once more. Odie was in their box, nearly through on goal when he was apparently taken down. I never saw it. Hearing their team, it was never a penalty, but hearing ours, there was no way the referee, Mr. Lloyd could not give one. Miki was hovering around the ball as if he were going to take, but I looked up from where I was standing at the halfway line and just shouted, "Kyle." Kyle Trulen stepped up to the ball and placed it past the keeper into the side netting. Congratulations went all around and, as he came back to our side of the pitch, he thanked me for having him take it.

At the time I thought it was kind of a funny thing to do, him thanking me. I knew he was the best at spot kicks, and I wanted to get him on the scoresheet since he was our forward. Maybe it had something to do with the fact that his parents had driven six hours from Wisconsin to watch him play. Regardless, as Westy said, "we needed that goal." And we did. Central Michigan pulled one back a few minutes later, but we were the better team on the day and hung on for the victory.

The team took an hour-long break before our next match against Bowling Green. It is never good to play two football matches in one day. Ninety minutes of football is a lot of work, but when you have to do it twice...

In the pre-match speech, I stressed that we needed a result from this fixture, as Bowling Green were in our division of the conference. The lads were tired and not necessarily focused on the task at hand. Things did not start off well. We were put under pressure from kickoff and could not generate much of an attack. A few times we broke through: I put a well-weighted ball into the path of Odie, but he was too slow to get it. Often, we would send Kyle through, but there was never any support from the midfield. We were just too tired.



Perso - dazzling against Bowling Green

The defense held up fairly well; in all honesty, their attack outmatched our defense. We withstood the bombardment for eighty minutes when injuries, cramps, mostly, began to plague us. If not for the absolutely magnificent goalkeeping of Mike Perso, we would have been down by five goals. He really stood on his head that match. I've never seen any man jump and stretch his body across so much space to tip a ball wide, nor have I seen someone do it so consistently. He really dominated box, challenging for every ball to which he could get. It wasn't enough, though. A few minutes from time we were caught out on a break. Westy had gone up and I was covering for him. Our midfielders were spent and couldn't make it back to mark up. They were through on goal.

It was a hard defeat to take, coming at home and so close to the final whistle. However, Bowling Green were magnanimous in defeat. Both BGSU and CMU were good guys. We went to the sidelines not too disconsolate. After picking up the bit of garbage that was there, I went to meet the parents and thank the fans. You always thank the fans. I made a special effort to meet Perso and Kyle's parents as they had driven quite a distance to be here; plus, I liked Kyle and Perso. They are my friends. You'll have that in a club, making friends. Otherwise, why do it at all? There is no sense if you don't like the people.

5.October.2002

Dayton 3 – 0 BSU SC
BSU SC 1 – 0 Western Ill.
BSU SC 0 – 2 Western Mich.

At this point in the season, we still had belief in ourselves. We trusted each other. There was no infighting or sniping that accompanies hard times. We were missing a few people, but we did not feel that we were supremely weakened. Even when Evan, our right back was injured, we were resolute.

Clearly our biggest loss was Mike Perso, our first choice keeper. Mike Gray was an able backup, but the fact is that Perso is 6'5" while Gray is closer to 5'9." As technically adept as Gray was, you cannot put in what God left out. Three of the five goals scored against us that weekend floated over Gray's head. To be fair, though, Gray kept us in matches. I recall in particular against Dayton where he sped from one goal post to the other to turn away a sure goal from a corner kick.

His shining moment had to be in the Western Illinois match. We dominated the match and should have been three goals up, but we had only one goal to show for our efforts. Miki played Colin through and Irish hit a ball that trickled (and I mean trickled, Caleb had time to yell, "oh, please go in!") past the keeper into the net. With our slim lead we kept attacking, which meant we were exposed in the back. They got a break away and Brandon took down a man in the box. Their player stepped up to take the spot kick, but Mike Gray was up to the task, diving to his left and blocking the well-struck ball.

Everything was calm on the surface after the first day of play. We found a very inexpensive hotel where the television did not work "because of the windy" (pronounced 'vindy'). After driving for far too long we

found a Fazoli's, our restaurant of choice on overnight trips. The experience was lovely, as we watched Miki break his all-time breadstick consumption record of 13½. In addition, Selinger found a bag of marijuana; to this day, I don't know exactly what happened to it.

While we are on the subject, drugs are a bad idea, especially for athletic organizations. A drink together now and then is fine, so long as it is not out of hand. Drugs, however, *will* take away focus, and, if encouraged or condoned by an organization, will become part and parcel of the culture, and that is not a good thing. I will not infuse this with my moral views on the matter. This is a purely objective viewpoint.

The next day we found a Denny's, ate, and waited to play the next match. It was one of the dirtiest affairs in which I have ever been involved. Western Michigan were classless. It was more than just whining or physical play; they were dirty. Only their captain (who needed a haircut) had any semblance of class in my mind. He scored both of their goals as well, which took some of the sting away for me at least, but no one was happy.

Reflecting on the weekend, I realized that we were where we deserved be. With three of our five forwards out for various reasons we had had to convert Kyle, a midfielder, into a forward. We had no defensive cover and were forced to play with different formations nearly every other game. On top of that, with schedules the way they were and the number of people we had on the roster, we never had enough players for a proper practice. The short of it was this: given our circumstances and players, had we done any better, we would be overachieving.

Overachieving would have been nice.

But an honest assessment is important. You should make an attempt to step back from your organization from time to time and see what needs to be improved and what you are doing right. It isn't a license to make excuses - it is a necessary step in realizing what you are.

12.October.2002

Miami Univ. 3 – 0 BSU SC
Wright State 6 – 0 BSU SC

Going into the weekend, Miami was the best team in our division. We were all set to play them, but it got off to a rocky start. We had only one substitute (Mike Gray, a goalie) and practices had been poor the preceding week. On top of that, Selinger rolled up the car window on my hand on the way there. To make matters worse, Andy, Selly, Brandon, and I were late to the match, but happily, seven minutes in (the point when we arrived), the game was still level. They got two goals before the half, and we were full of energy for the final forty-five minutes. It was so good that I even got a shot on goal – one of our better efforts. But it was for naught. They ran over us, despite our battling performance.

As for the Wright State match, I don't want to write about it. It sapped the good from the weekend. Events off the field were slightly more impressive, such as when I taught Andy and Brandon a dance I created and rapping about the whole day buffet on the way home. Also, Miki was very upset after the match, so I said, "this should make you laugh," promptly disrobing and changing into fresh underpants. The field, being right by the road, was a perfect viewing spot for two girls driving by in a car to shout, "put your clothes on!"

Looking at the scoreline you could say the defense was to blame, but make no mistake, the defense did their job. However, it takes a whole team to defend. The defensive effort was not there, and I take umbrage when it was said that it was the defense's fault, especially when we (the defenders) were also being told that we needed to get up so that the team could score goals.

My hope was that the wretched performance against Wright State was a one off thing and the vitriol would pass. I was too beaten as a captain to argue my point, and what good would it have done? You cannot

have so many people saying what needs to be done with any effect. Too many generals and not enough soldiers. Perhaps I let down my team by not being a stronger leader.

To be philosophical about it, it takes the whole club performing well to get a result. We did not have that. That will be a difficult challenge you may face: motivating everyone. I do not have the answers for that; no one does. Just try your hardest.

My biggest fear was that people would lose interest in the club, and attendance at practice was already waning. I hate to say we were burnt out, but you cannot ask too much of people who are spread so thinly as university students are prone to be. That being said, we had only one weekend left.

19.October.2002

BGSU 8 – 1 BSU SC
OSU 5 – 0 BSU SC
OU 3 – 1 BSU SC

It was the final weekend of the season and my career. We had two games on Saturday. You can tell by the scores that we were no good. The trip to Columbus was made without Selinger, who claimed he had other things to do. Rubbish, that, but you cannot control everything so we had to just get on with it. Personally, I had the worst match of my life against Bowling Green. I was directly at fault for at least three of the goals, and a fourth was put in by my own boot. Own goals are never fun, but you have to show some resilience and bounce back.

I tried to do just that against Ohio State, but it all started off poorly for me as I allowed the second goal with a failed clearance at the goalmouth during a corner. It was a tidier match for the club, but still disheartening.

Our final match of the season was against Ohio University, who were touted as the best team on the weekend. We came out with a new formation: a 4-4-2 alignment, something which I had wanted the entire year, but no one else liked or knew how to play. It seemed to work wonders as we were on every loose ball. Communication and passing were there as well; the team stepped up their effort tenfold from the previous day.

We took the lead early as Miki sent a ball from the right shoulder into the center of the park where Andy flicked it on for Odie to volley home. O'Donnell's first goal for the club could not have come at a better time. The entire squad was heartened and we poured on the pressure. Five minutes from half they equalized. Then two minutes later, our attacking efforts saw our backline exposed and they pulled ahead.

Somewhat surprisingly, the team was very upbeat during the half. I talked to my defenders about tactics in order to shore up during the second half. The next forty-five minutes were a flurry of activity. We attacked well, with Odie, playing out of his skin, being taken down in the box, yet the referee saw fit not to award a penalty. Marc Acton, injured on Saturday, played through pain, and on the hour hit a freekick that struck the foot of the post, denying him. They got another goal, chipping Perso on a counter attack.

We drove forward for the rest of the match unable to get another goal. On one corner, Kyle headed the ball on goal, their goalie saved well, but gave up a rebound that skied over Andy's head right to me. I rose well to meet the ball, but as I did, was checked from behind by one of their players. Surely a penalty! The referee – amazingly, agonizingly – did not agree. I was not impressed.

It was quite the battling effort, and everybody was pleased. I liken it to the loss against Indiana of the previous year. Looking back, I am curious as to how we would have fared should the season have continued – we seemed to regain our confidence, and everyone appeared to be hitting top form. We played well, but were unlucky to leave without a share of the points.

After the match I thanked everyone for the season and my career. It wasn't a tear jerking moment, but rather a numbing pain. Here I was, for the last time, stripping off my captain's armband for the team I had created, nurtured, and loved. For *my* team. As we drove back to Muncie, I was left pondering what I would do with my newfound free time. It was not an altogether pleasing train of thought, but Andy and Berky kept me amused during the very odorous trip home.

AFTERWORD

After the season ended I still got together with all the lads. I went to training with them, worked out, and had dinner. I knew my time at University and with them was waning, so I made every effort to spend time with them and enjoy it. The new aspect was, when we met, less and less of the talk was about football; we discussed girls, women, food, wine, music... football was still in there, but it had less of a role. I had gone from creator to administrator to leader to captain and player, and was now quickly becoming part of the club's past. There was no great fanfare, no surprise party or teary good-byes. I was leaving, not dying, and the club was in good hands.

It is the way it had to be. As I said, there is impetus, action, toil, reward, and parting. The greatest solace taken by me despite my leaving was the fact that I would keep in contact with some of the lads – my friends. And although the formation of the club was a selfish thing, it benefited a goodly number of people and in the end was not about me at all.

APPENDIX A: Ball State University Soccer Club all-time roster:

Name	Nickname
Acton, Marc	Act-o, Actor, Actologist, Axploitation, Blacksploitation
Barisano, Jason	JP, JPB, Baris, B
Battin, Brad	
Berkshire, Brandon	Brando, Brandy, Berky, Berkshire Pig, Butterfinger, Fozzie
Bytnar, A.J.	Jonny Knoxville, Byt
Caldwell, Caleb	Sabienz, Cable, Cableready, Cablevox
Cassidy, Colin	Irish, Colander
Clark, James	
Day, Cazemba	Caz, Saucepan, Salisbury, Sausage
Esselburn, Brett	Ess
French, Duncan	Dunc, Big Dunc,
Gray, Joe	Jogee, Jacy Gray, JG
Gray, Mike	MG, MGD
Holloway, Brooks	Brooksy
Ioannou, Niko	
Koschmann, Drew	
Krause, Evan	Evo, Sauer Krause
Marquis, Andy	Ands, Anders, A-Clutch, Pointy Letters, AF, AF-Bomb, Stovetop, Jakobs
McIntyre, Travis	Houdini
McLaughlin, Christopher	Keager, Keags
Miller, Adam	Ads, Milly
O'Donnell, Matt	Odie, Oder, ODP, ODB, Odacious
Pell, Trent	Pelly, Trentoshan, TB Pell
Perso, Mike	Perse, Personometer, Tall
Reilly, Mike	Fatneck, The Bus
Savic, Milos	Miki, Mirek, Miroslav, Serbia, Serbianz, Kool-aid man, Spin Move, various other unrepeatables
Selinger, Mike	Selly
Shields, Dave	
Staudt, Quinn	
Stebing, Matt	
Stephens, Tom	T, Sweetness
Stutsman, Tyson	
Swart, D. Brandon	DB
Tanner, Ross	Rossy, Roston
Trimbur, Todd	
Trulen, Kyle	True Value, El Mago
Turner, Brian	Turn
Voland, Sammy	Sams
Warner, BJ	
West, Allyn	Westy, Westness, Western, Westafarian
Wison, Bret	Wilsey
Wood, Andrew	Wood, Woody, Woodrow, Woodworth, Woodwork, Woodley, Woodage, The Wood, The Milk, Captain Clear

Guest Players:	
Cool, Ryan	
James	Jaimie Scowcroft
Paul	
Reilly, Matt	Spider

APPENDIX B: Forms

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BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
INTENT TO ORGANIZE FORM

FOR GROUPS INTERESTED IN BECOMING
RECOGNIZED BALL STATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Name of Group: _____

Purpose of Group: _____

Acting President
or Chairperson: _____ (This person must be a Ball State student)

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Additional Officers/
Student Contacts: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Organization's on-campus mailing address: _____

Faculty Advisor: _____

Department: _____ Phone: _____

Signature of President
or Chairperson: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Advisor: _____ Date: _____

This section for office use only:

The privileges accorded a temporary group will be in effect until (date) _____

Date ITO received: _____ Date constitution received: _____

Date sent to Student Activities Committee: _____

Action: _____

INFORMATION FOR GROUPS INTERESTED IN BECOMING RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Intent To Organize form shall be completed (in consultation with the Director of Student Organizations and Activities) by those individuals representing a group wishing to become a recognized campus organization.

Completing the Intent To Organize Form (yellow):

- 1) The individuals listed on the form as officers for the organization *must* be Ball State students.
- 2) All student organizations are required to have an on-campus mailing address. If you do not currently have an on-campus address, once your organization has been approved by the Student Activities Committee you will need to notify our office of an on-campus mailing address so that your organization can receive mail. Located outside of the Office of Student Organizations and Activities, Student Center L-1, are several organization mailboxes. If you are interested in obtaining one of these for your organization's mailbox, you may stop by Student Organizations and Activities and one will be assigned to your group.
- 3) Each recognized organization is required to have an advisor which must be either a faculty or university staff member (someone on the payroll). The role of an advisor includes making educational contributions to the group, as well as representing the University when legal questions arise. Graduate Assistants may serve as co-advisors along with a faculty advisor.

Once the Intent To Organize Form is completed, submit the form to the Office of Student Organizations and Activities, Student Center L-1. A new group filing this form will have twelve school weeks in which to submit a constitution for approval to the Student Activities Committee. The Committee, which convenes approximately once a month during the academic year, will review the materials. Any constitutions submitted during the summer months will be reviewed at the first committee meeting in the fall. The Committee will consider as many proposals as time allows during each meeting and the group will be notified in writing of recognition as a campus organization.

If the constitution is not approved within the designated period, the group may re-file for another twelve-week period. In the event that this second period passes without an approved constitution, the Student Activities Committee will withdraw all campus privileges from the group for six months, after which time the group may file another Intent To Organize form.

Student Organization Privileges:

- 1) Completion and submission of the Intent To Organize Form confers the following campus privileges upon the new group for a limited period of time:
 - a) Reserving meeting rooms.
 - b) Publicizing the meetings of the group.
 - c) Inviting membership.
 - d) Obtaining an organization mailbox in the Student Center.
 - e) Opening an account for the organization in the Controller's Office.
- 2) Until it has been approved by the Student Activities Committee as a student organization, a new group is prohibited from:
 - a) Holding fund-raising activities.
 - b) Participating as a group at University-sponsored functions.
 - c) Holding an organization VAX account.
 - d) Utilizing counsel from Student Legal Services.

INFORMATION FOR GROUPS INTERESTED IN BECOMING RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS - continued

Creating and Submitting a Constitution:

- 1) Follow the requirements as stated in the Constitution Construction Guide contained in this packet.
- 2) The following is the policy of the Student Activities Committee:

Section 1. All organizations submitting constitutions for consideration shall be required to include in their constitutions the following item:

- a. A statement to: limit regular membership to Ball State University students, faculty, and staff; (If the statement "membership is open to...the constitution will not be accepted for consideration);

Although not a requirement, groups are encouraged to include a non-discrimination clause for membership, such as: "Membership will not be based on or refused to anyone for reasons of race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, physical or mental handicap, age, or status as a Vietnam Era veteran in selection of members."

Section 2. Organizations presently existing under approved constitutions shall abide by this policy.

The term "membership" does not include advisory personnel or persons of honorary or associate status; however, reference to the activities and duties of these persons must be explained in the membership section or articles of the constitutions of the organizations.

The above policy does not restrict a Ball State campus organization from affiliating or associating its membership with a non-campus organization. It does assert that there must be two separate organizations.

- 3) Submit **three original copies** of the proposed constitution (along with the Intent to Organize form, if it has not already been submitted) to the Office of Student Organizations and Activities, Student Center L-1. When the constitution of a student organization has been approved by the Student Activities Committee, the organization will be informed of the approval in writing. If revisions in the proposed constitution are required, the organization will also be informed of this in writing.

NOTE: Groups interested in eventually becoming a sorority or fraternity will be referred immediately to the appropriate local governing council (National Pan-Hellenic Council, Panhellenic Council or Interfraternity Council) for additional consultation. Final approval of these groups depends upon meeting the requirements established by the appropriate national governing organization (NPHC, NPC or NIC), as well as those of the University. Until approved by the local governing council, organizations are not permitted to use the name or designations of inter/national Greek organizations specifically affiliated with NPHC, NPC, or NIC.

If your organization intends to apply for funding assistance from the Campus Activities Fund Board for a specific event, please be aware that this event must be open to the public (i.e. you cannot invite only club members, only freshmen, etc.). For more information about applying for funds from CAFB, refer to the Student Organization Handbook.

CONSTITUTION CONSTRUCTION GUIDE

The fundamental requirements of all constitutions are as follows:

CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name

States the name of the organization.

Article II - Purpose

States the purpose and aims of the group.

Article III - Membership

States the requirements and size limitation, if any.

Regular membership must be limited to students, faculty, and staff of the University.

Article IV - Officers

Contains the list of officers and their terms of office in the group.

Article V - Executive Committee

States the make-up of the executive committee (board or council), the method of their selection, and their term of office. Provision for vacancies of officers or other executive members may be included in a section under this article.

Article VI - Meetings

States the regular meeting time and provisions for calling special meetings. If meetings cannot be held regularly, authority to call meetings may be stated here. Also, the quorum (proportion of the membership required to hold a meeting) should be stated here or in a separate article.

Article VII - Finances

States the manner by which initiation fees and/or dues (if any) are established.

Article VIII - Amendments

Process usually requires previous notification, also a two-thirds or three-fourths affirmative vote of those present and voting, or of those present for its adoption.

Amending the constitution should not be too simple a process, for the sake of stability of the group. The constitution should always carry the date it was last revised. It is a good idea to insert in parentheses after an amendment the date it was passed.

BYLAWS

If the organization has bylaws, sections should deal with the following:

1. Detailed material concerning members; that is rights, duties, resignation, and expulsion procedures. Provision for honorary, associate members, or honorary officers if the group so desires.
2. Provision for initiation fees, if any, dues and assessments should be covered here; also details regarding delinquencies.
3. Time and method of electing officers and duties of the officers.
4. Duties, authority, and responsibilities of an executive committee.
5. The names of the standing committees and the method of choosing chairmen and committee members. The duties of the committees should also be stated.
6. A provision for some accepted rules of order or parliamentary manual as Robert's "Rule of Order, Revised."
7. The number or proportion of the group constituting a quorum.
8. A method to amend the bylaws, usually a majority vote.

Amending the constitution should not be too simple a process, for the sake of stability of the group. It should be possible to amend the bylaws with greater ease. The constitution should always carry the date it was last revised. It is a good idea to insert in parentheses after an amendment the date it was passed.

NOTE: If the organization only has a constitution and no bylaws, the above information should be included within the constitution.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

ACCOUNT NOTIFICATION Office of Controller & Business Services

YE _____	Fund Group _____						
Sec Code _____	Exp _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	GL	<input type="checkbox"/>	SL	Gen Led Acct # _____	
Exec _____	Rev _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Established				
Div _____	ABR _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revised			Sub Led Acct # _____	
School _____	Map _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Termination				
Dept _____	Benefits Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>					Date _____	Initials _____

ACCOUNT NOTIFICATION REQUEST: ☐ NEW ☐ REVISION ☐ TERMINATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the sections indicated (depending upon the request)

NEW – each section that applies

REVISION – only those sections involving changes to be made to the existing account

TERMINATION – termination date (G) and reason for termination (J-7)

A. DEPARTMENT/OFFICE RESPONSIBLE _____

B. PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOUNT ACTIVITY _____

ADDRESS TO WHICH REPORT IS TO BE SENT _____

C. PURPOSE OF ACCOUNT _____

D. ACCOUNT TITLE _____

E. Account No. _____ Item Code _____ Bracket Code _____ Restriction Code _____

Fund Code _____ Application Code _____

F. Effective Date _____ G. Termination Date _____

H. SOURCE OF FUNDS | | |

1. Estimated amount of available funds \$ _____

2. Governmental: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ Local

Private: ☐ Organization ☐ Individual

Name of source providing funds: _____

ARS Customer/Sponsor ID#: _____

3. Other:

☐ Support from _____ Account No. _____

☐ Special fees — description _____

☐ Sale of goods or services — description _____

☐ Miscellaneous — description _____

I. USE OF FUNDS

1. ☐ Salaries and Wages
☐ Faculty/Professional Personnel ☐ Staff Personnel and Service Staff ☐ Student
2. ☐ Consultants and other personal service
3. ☐ Employee Benefits
4. ☐ Financial Assistance F/A Fund Codes: _____
5. ☐ Equipment and other capital expenditures
6. ☐ Supplies, travel and other expenses
7. ☐ Other — description _____

J. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Financial Transaction to be accumulated on the following basis:
☐ July 1 — June 30 (for the fiscal year to date) ☐ Life of Account (from first transaction to date)
2. If source of funds is expected to exceed disbursements for the activity described, how is excess to be utilized? _____
3. If disbursements exceed source of funds, how is excess to be funded? _____
4. ☐ Budget on file with Budget Office.
5. ☐ Account to be charged for employee benefits.
6. ☐ Grant Account
 - a. ☐ Supporting documents, including budgets are on file with Office of Contracts and Grants.
 - b. ☐ Grant subject to indirect cost charges. Rate _____ Limit \$ _____ Account _____
 - c. ☐ Grant subject to cost-sharing Opt _____ Rate _____ Limit \$ _____ Account _____
7. Additional comments, if any _____

K. SIGNATURES

1. Responsible person _____ Date _____
2. Department Head _____ Date _____
3. Dean/Area Vice President _____ Date _____
4. Finance/Budget Office _____ Date _____
5. Accounting review _____ Date _____
6. Approved _____ Date _____

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ORGANIZATION VAX ACCOUNTS REQUEST FORM

All recognized student organizations may request a VAX account for its use. To obtain a VAX account, read and follow the instructions below, then complete the form, obtain the necessary signatures, and return it to the Office of Student Organizations and Activities. PLEASE PRINT!

- 1) Recognized student organizations are groups that have been *approved* by the Student Activities Committee.
- 2) This form must be completed by either the faculty advisor or one of the organization's current top two officers (i.e. President or Vice President) and submitted to the Office of Student Organizations and Activities, Student Center L-1. The faculty advisor's signature must be included on this form.
- 3) Once you obtain an account, you will receive a password that will automatically be sent to the Ball State e-mail address specified below under General Information. If at some point, the password for the account needs to be changed, the faculty advisor must approve the password change and can do this by sending a memo to this office. The password will not be changed for organization members without approval from the faculty advisor.
- 4) Once the account is set up and a password has been assigned to the account, the password will automatically be forwarded to a Ball State e-mail address noted by the person filling out this form. If there is no Ball State e-mail address listed on this form, the password will be printed out and sent to the organization's on-campus mailbox.

General Information:

Date: _____

Organization name: _____

Name of person filling out this form: _____ Phone: _____

Office held in organization: _____ BSU email address: _____

Organization's faculty advisor name: _____

Organization's faculty advisor signature: _____

Account Information:

Intended use: _____

Desired username: (One character per box)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Use names may contain up to 12 characters (letters, numbers) but may not contain spaces or punctuation.

Return completed form to:

Student Organizations & Activities
Student Center L-1

Student Organizations & Activities Office Only

Date received: _____ Date completed: _____

Organization 4-digit code: _____

BSU Sport Club
2002 - 2003 Informational Sheet



Club Name: _____

President

Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

E-mail: _____

Vice-President

Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

E-mail: _____

Treasurer

Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

E-mail: _____

Secretary

Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

E-mail: _____

Advisor

Name: _____ **Department:** _____

Phone Number: _____

Safety Officer

Name: _____ **Department:** _____

Phone Number: _____

Membership dues: _____ **Annual/Semester:** _____

Practice Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Times					
Location					

Game/Event Schedule

(include games, meetings, tournaments, etc)

**BSU Sport Club
Officer Listing
2002 - 2003**



Club: _____

Please indicate your officers in the space provided below:

	Name	Phone	E-mail	Date elected
President	_____	_____	_____	_____
Vice-President	_____	_____	_____	_____
Treasurer	_____	_____	_____	_____
Secretary	_____	_____	_____	_____
Safety Officer	_____	_____	_____	_____
Faculty Advisor	_____	_____	_____	_____

Other (specify positions):

What date do these offices become effective? _____

When will your club's next elections be held? _____

**BSU Sport Club
Membership Roster
2002 - 2003**



Club: _____

Semester: _____

Name (print)	Social Security Number	Telephone	Waiver on file?	
			yes	no
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				

BSU Sport Club
Semester Report Form
2002 - 2003



Name of Club: _____

Total Number of Active Members: _____

Semester: _____

President: _____

Vice-President: _____

Treasurer: _____

Secretary: _____

Safety Officer: _____

Other Officers: _____

Practice/Meeting Schedule

Day(s): _____ Time(s): _____ Total Hours/Week: _____

Average number of participants per practice: Male _____ Female _____

Highlights of the Semester

* List all competitions, performances, demonstrations, etc.

	Event	Date	Location	Results	# of club members participating
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Fundraising Efforts

	Event	Date	Location	Amount raised	# of club members participating
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please include comments and suggestions for the upcoming semester on the back of this form.

BSU Sport Club
Travel Itinerary/Roster
2002 - 2003



Club: _____

Person completing form: _____

Name	Office	Phone
------	--------	-------

Type of event: _____ Location of Event: _____

Date/Time of Departure: _____ Date/Time of Return: _____

Method of Transportation (circle one): **Commercial** **Private**

Housing: _____

Location	Phone
----------	-------

Contact person: _____

Name	Phone
------	-------

Please list all traveling club members, advisors, and guests using the back of the page if more space is needed:

[illegible]

Please list all personal vehicles to be driven during travel:

[illegible]

Please contact the Sport Club GA within 24 hours of returning from your trip at 285-3570.

BSU Sport Club
Pre-Game/Competition Report
2002 - 2003



Club: _____

Person completing form: _____
Name Office Phone

Playing Schedule

Circle one: Home Away

Teams	Date	Time	Location
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Traveling Teams

What is the mode of transportation? _____

Where is the Ball State team staying? _____

_____ Location Phone

Have you submitted a Travel Roster/Itinerary form? _____

BSU Team departure time/date: _____

BSU Team return time/date: _____

Hosting Teams

Where is/are the guest teams staying? _____

_____ Location Phone

Have field reservations been made? _____

Have you submitted an Equipment Request, if necessary? _____

Have you made arrangements for an athletic trainer? _____

Name: _____

Phone number available for emergencies: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

**BSU Sport Club
Post-Game/Competition Report
2002- 2003**



Club: _____ Date(s) of Competition: _____

Person completing form: _____
Name Office Phone

Results of Game/Competition:

Highlights, outstanding achievements, etc. (please include name, class, etc.):

Problems/Concerns:

Accident Report filed? Yes No
(If yes, please attach Accident Report Form)

Signed: _____ Phone: _____ Date: _____



Date: _____
Club Team: _____

Irving-Gym 201
Muncie, Indiana 47306-0087
Phone: 765-285-1753
Fax: 765-285-9039

Dear Visiting Sport Club Team:

We are anticipating you (or your team) visiting the campus of Ball State University on _____ In accordance to stated Ball State University Sport Club policies, please note the following:

- 1) **Opposing individual(s)/team(s) traveling to Ball State University for competitions CANNOT have individuals under the age of 18 years of age competing on Ball State property or playing against any Ball State University sport club team.**
- 2) **Ball State University sport club teams, Office of Recreation Services Staff, or other designated university officials will verify the age of each opposing team member through picture ID. This requirement will take place upon arrival of said team to Ball State University property. Failure to provide a picture ID will result in that person NOT being a participant in that contest.**
- 3) **Non-compliance to this stated policy will result in the team being dismissed from Ball State University property, and the loss of all paid fees for participation in said activity for that team(s)/individual(s).**

Please direct all questions regarding this stated policy to:

Troy Vaughn, Associate Director
Office of Recreation Services
Ball State University
Irving Gym 201
Muncie, IN 47306
Phone: (765) 285-1753
Fax: (765) 285-9039

We appreciate your cooperation in this effort.

Sincerely,

BSU Sport Club Graduate Assistant: _____ date: _____

BSU President: _____ date: _____

Opposing Team Representative Signature: _____ date: _____

Opposing Team Representative Title: _____ date: _____

*****Please return this document via easiest means for you by the above information. *****

**BSU Sport Club
Equipment Checkout Form
2001 - 2002**



Name: _____ Date: _____

Club: _____

Destination (for activities to be held off-campus): _____

Equipment Requested

Date(s) needed: _____

Expected return date: _____

Equipment	Date out	Date returned
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Problems/Deficiencies: _____

Guidelines for Use of Equipment

1. Only active club members who have been listed by the President may check out equipment.
2. Equipment should be inspected closely at the time of checkout. Record any deficiencies/problems on this form.
3. All damages must be reported and noted on this form at the time the equipment is returned. Club members are responsible for the replacement/repair costs of any damaged/missing equipment resulting from their negligence or misuse.
4. Equipment that is not checked out for the entire semester must be returned within 48 hours of the activity/event unless prior arrangements have been made with the Sport Clubs GA.

I have read and agree to the above guidelines governing the use of Sport Club equipment. By signing, I agree that the equipment is in good condition (unless otherwise noted) and understand that failure to abide by these guidelines will result in loss of privileges for future use of equipment.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reported damages: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

BSU Recreation Programs Staff Initials: _____

**BSU Sport Club
Release Form
2002 - 2003**



This form must be signed and submitted to the Office of Recreation Services prior to participation in any type of club activity.

I, _____, City of _____,
State of _____, do affirm my desire to participate in
_____, a club sport of Ball State University.

Realizing that there is risk inherent in any recreational activity, and in consideration of my being allowed to participate in this event, I personally assume all risks in connection with said event. I further agree to release and hold harmless the State of Indiana, Ball State University, their Board of Trustees, their officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims and liabilities of any type whatsoever, and for damages to, loss or destruction of any property or injury, sickness, or death which may now or hereafter arise out of, result from, or in any way be connected with my participation in said activity.

I understand it is my responsibility to obtain health insurance and not the responsibility of the State of Indiana or any of its agencies, including Ball State University.

I further state that I am of lawful age and legally competent to sign this release; that I understand the terms herein are contractual and not a mere recital; and that I have signed this document of my own free act.

In witness whereof, I have executed this affirmation and release at Muncie, Indiana on _____, 20____.

Signature of Participant

Return this form to: **Office of Recreation Services
Irving Gym 201
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
(765) 285-1753**

**BSU Sport Club
Accident Report Form
2002 - 2003**



Name of victim: _____ Date: _____

Social Security #: _____

Address: _____
Street City, State Zip

Phone: () _____

Status: (check one) Student _____ F/S _____ Spouse/Dependent _____
Guest _____ Other (specify) _____

Time Accident Occurred: _____ AM PM (circle one)

Time Accident Reported: _____ AM PM (circle one)

Club: _____

Activity (i.e. game, practice, etc.): _____

Specific location of accident (i.e. Heath Farms, Ball Gym, etc.): _____

Immediate action taken: _____

First Aid Given by: _____
(Please print) (Phone)

Witnesses: _____
(Name) (Phone)

(Name) (Phone)

Report Filed by: _____
(Name) (Phone)

For office use only

Follow-up:

APPENDIX C: Constitution

Ball State University Soccer Club Constitution

- Article I Name
1:1 The name of this organization shall be Ball State University Soccer Club.
- Article II Purpose
2:1 The purpose of this club shall be:
(a) organize a competitive soccer club for Ball State University
(b) arrange soccer matches between BSU SC and other colleges and universities with club soccer programs
- Article III Membership
3:1 Any person enrolled $\frac{3}{4}$ time as an undergraduate or 6 graduate credit hours is eligible to try out for BSU SC.
3:2 NIRSA rules of eligibility overrule BSU SC rules of eligibility.
3:3 Members must pay yearly dues to be considered active and to participate in club competitions.
3:4 Members may be ejected from the club.
(a) Dues will be refunded.
(b) An officers meeting must be held at which a majority of elected officers agree upon dismissal.
(c) In the case of a tied vote, the president shall cast the deciding vote.
- Article IV Officers
4:1 The officers of this club shall be President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Historian, Captain, and Vice-Captain.
Duties
(a) The President is in charge of arranging matches (all aspects) and calling as well as presiding over meetings. It is also assumed that the president will act as the team's coach, however the president may appoint a coach.
(b) The Vice President will aid the president and fill in for him when he is unable to perform his duties.
(c) The Treasurer is in charge of club finances. He will collect membership dues and keep a record of all revenues and expenditures. He will work closely with the president.
(d) The Historian is in charge of maintaining a club website, communicating with the public, recording all meetings, and corresponding with club members.
(e) The Captain is in charge of leading the team and selecting the team in conjunction with the coach.
(f) The Vice-Captain will assume the Captain's role should he be unable to perform them.
4:2 Officers may hold more than one office.

4:3 Officers will be elected at a general meeting at the beginning of each school year.

4:4 Elected officers shall serve a term of 1 year.

Article V Finances

5:1 BSU SC shall be financed by membership dues and allocated funds.

5:2 Membership dues will be determined by the elected officers.

Article VI Practices and Meetings

6:1 Meetings shall be held at the beginning of the school year, and at the end of the school year.

6:2 Meetings may be called at the behest of the officers.

6:3 A quorum of 11 active members is necessary for a meeting to be considered official.

6:4 Elected officers determine the frequency and time of practices.

Article VII Amendments

7:1 The constitution may be amended as follows:

(1) An amendment shall be proposed in writing and shall be read at a meeting of this club.

(2) The proposed amendment must receive at least two-thirds of the active members present to be ratified.

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